

SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT 2024



European
Investment Bank | Group

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European Investment Bank Group Sustainability Report 2024

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You can also contact us directly through the [EIB website](#) and [EIF website](#).

Published by the European Investment Bank.

Printed on FSC® paper.

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PART I

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The 2024 European Investment Bank Group Sustainability Report marks an important step forward in sustainability reporting and transparency. For the first time, the European Investment Bank Group (the EIB Group) presents a single, fully integrated **sustainability report**. This report simplifies sustainability-related disclosures, which were previously published across four separate documents: the annual sustainability report, and the [Global Reporting Initiative](#), the [Sustainability Accounting Standards Board](#) and the [Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures](#) frameworks.

This milestone reflects the efforts by the EIB Group to align its reporting with the [European Sustainability Reporting Standards](#) and the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#), while taking into account the Group's unique characteristics, such as its policy mandate, specific tasks and governance structure. It underscores a commitment to the highest standard of transparency and accountability.

The report offers an unprecedented, comprehensive and detailed view of the Group's sustainability performance and the tangible impact of the projects it finances. Across every region of the European Union – and in 130 countries worldwide – teams of engineers, technical experts and financial officers represent the EIB Group daily, demonstrating the values Europe stands for.

The EIB Group's on-the-ground work, as well as this report, are guided by the principle of double materiality, a core concept of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. This principle addresses both the impact of the Group's activities on the environment and society, and the potential effects of sustainability challenges – such as climate change, resource scarcity, or social risks – on the Group's investments.

In 2020, the EIB Group published the first phase of the Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025, which outlined its role and objectives as the climate bank. In October 2025, the Group published Phase 2 of the roadmap, which covers 2026-2030. Phase 2 supports Europe's competitiveness, security and technological leadership while simplifying procedures to accelerate green investment and doubling targets for climate adaptation finance. It is guided by three main objectives:

- staying the course and adapting to evolving needs as the climate bank;
- focusing on investment for impact;
- simplifying and updating rules and procedures to reduce administrative burdens for clients.

The Group's investments in climate action and environmental sustainability in 2024 demonstrate the progress made in delivering on one of the key commitments outlined in the Climate Bank Roadmap. In 2024, the Group invested a record €51 billion – around 60% of its investments – to advance the green transition, climate action and environmental sustainability.

These investments are driving real change. In 2020, the European Investment Bank phased out support for electricity generation projects based on unabated fossil fuels and significantly increased its backing for renewable energy. As a result, the **average greenhouse gas emissions intensity for electricity generation projects in the EIB Group's portfolio fell by an estimated 75% from 2018 to 2024.**

Sustainable economic growth depends on inclusive and resilient communities and requires investment in social infrastructure, affordable and sustainable housing, gender equality, education and healthcare. The EIB Group supports these aims while also leveraging its financing to foster employment and create economic opportunities for these communities. Total investments in 2024 will create an estimated 1.5 million new jobs by 2028.

In a rapidly changing geopolitical and environmental landscape, the EIB Group remains a reliable partner for sustainable development. In 2025, the Group expects to sign up to €100 billion in new financing to support European competitiveness, security and sustainable growth, while strengthening



the European Union's global voice. It is also working with the European Commission to simplify state aid rules in relation to EIB Group financing, a step that will facilitate support for European industry and advance EU policy goals, such as the Clean Industrial Deal.

The challenges ahead are immense – but so are the opportunities. The EIB Group is committed to leading by example, mobilising public and private finance to build a sustainable future for all.

The time to act is now. Together with the European Union, the EIB Group is doing its part.

WHO WE ARE

The EIB Group is the European Union's long-term financing institution. It provides finance and technical assistance through two entities: the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund. The EIB Group operates globally and supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, the EIB Group invested almost €89 billion, 90% of which was inside the European Union and 10% beyond the European Union.

Owned by EU members, the European Investment Bank (the EIB, or the Bank) is the world's largest multilateral borrower and lender. The finance and assistance it provides contribute to achieving EU policy goals in Europe and beyond. Its counterparts range from national governments to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and its products span complex framework loans to loans issued through financial intermediaries.

In 2022, the Bank set up a development arm, EIB Global, to increase the impact of its work in countries outside the European Union and to build on decades of experience in global development financing. EIB Global works closely with external partners and regional clients to develop tailored strategies that enhance the outcome of financed projects and contribute to the local policy dialogue.

In addition to the Bank's financing of large projects and intermediated lending, the European Investment Fund (EIF), the Group's dedicated risk capital subsidiary, provides innovative debt and equity investments to support small businesses, startups and scaleups. This ensures that the EIB Group has a comprehensive product portfolio and can provide innovative instruments – from loans and guarantees to equity investments and venture capital – through direct and indirect investments via public and private banks, investment funds and other financial intermediaries. These efforts are helping to close the funding gap in Europe's capital markets.



KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE EIB GROUP 2024 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

1. Sustainability is at the heart of the EIB Group's operations

The EIB Group's operating model is based on sustainable finance, and its investments directly support the European Green Deal and the transition to a low-carbon economy. The Group is a global leader in climate finance, was the first issuer of a green bond and remains one of the largest multilateral issuers of green and sustainability bonds.

The EIB Group's role is to advance EU policies, rather than to maximise profit. It creates long-term value for society and the environment. Sustainability criteria are embedded in all investment decisions, risk management processes and reporting frameworks, enabling the Group to push forward EU public policy goals, such as promoting inclusive economic growth and ensuring that all regions and communities have the resources they need to adapt to decarbonisation. **In 2024, the Group invested a record €88.8 billion to support EU public policy goals.**

The EIB Group adopted its Strategic Roadmap 2024-2027, which sets out eight policy priorities that guide its actions and investments. Aligned with EU policy objectives, these priorities include:

- climate action and environmental sustainability
- digitalisation and technological innovation
- security and defence
- a modern cohesion policy
- agriculture and the bioeconomy
- social infrastructure
- high-impact global investment
- capital markets union

These priorities are designed to accelerate the green and digital transitions, foster innovation and strengthen social and regional cohesion. By targeting these areas, the EIB Group maximises its impact and support for Europe's competitiveness and resilience. It also works with international partners to support global action on the green transition and sustainable development.



2. Reinforcing the EIB Group's role as the climate bank

Climate change remains one of the most urgent global threats, driving extreme weather and increasing risks for vulnerable communities. Achieving the European Union's goal of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) and reaching net-zero by 2050 requires rapid decarbonisation and climate adaptation efforts.

Through its direct and indirect investments and its advisory services, the EIB Group supports projects that advance the green transition in the European Union and worldwide.

- In 2024, the Group invested a record €51 billion – which represents about 60% of all investment – to advance the green transition, climate action and environmental sustainability.
- Since 2021, it has supported an estimated €563 billion of investment, keeping the Group well on track to meet its target of supporting €1 trillion in climate and environmental sustainability investment in the critical decade to 2030.
- For its part, the European Investment Bank committed €44.8 billion of its own resources to climate action and environmental sustainability, representing 60% of its total financing. It is also mobilising €100 billion for energy investments.

The EIB Group's Climate Bank Roadmap 2020-2025 (and Phase 2 of the roadmap) provides a clear framework for aligning all activities with the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. It guides investments that will enable Europe to reach climate neutrality by 2050 and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The EIB Group is also making strides to address nature and biodiversity loss in its investments. Water scarcity and pollution are undermining the stability of ecosystems, resulting in disease outbreaks and economic losses. The Bank is developing a plan to further integrate biodiversity and natural capital into EIB Group operations in areas where nature can support economic, inclusive and climate-smart development.

3. Investing in people – the world's greatest asset – delivers economic returns

The Group recognises that sustainable economic growth depends on inclusive and resilient communities. Investing in affordable and sustainable housing, gender equality, education and healthcare is essential for high labour force participation and economic productivity. For example, the EIB Group is working with multilateral development banks and the World Health Organization to strengthen primary healthcare in vulnerable and underserved communities, and with the Gates Foundation to improve health and nutrition in low- and middle-income countries.

At the same time, the Group's investment in social infrastructure fosters cohesion and reduces inequalities between European regions, helping ensure that the benefits of growth are widely shared and leave no one behind.

- The EIB Group invested a record €38 billion in cohesion regions in 2024, improving living standards across the European Union.

Targeted initiatives support small businesses and vulnerable groups, while partnerships with other EU and international institutions advance affordable housing, social infrastructure and microfinance – including support for displaced people and Ukrainian refugees. The EIB Group leverages its financing to foster employment and economic empowerment.

The EIB Group places particular emphasis on empowering groups that face structural disadvantages in the labour market, such as women. The European Investment Bank advances this goal through its gender action plans, by spearheading initiatives such as the [Women Climate Leaders Network](#) and participating in the [2X Challenge](#). The European Investment Fund supports broader EU efforts, like [InvestEU](#) and [Horizon Europe](#), that channel capital towards women-led and gender-diverse companies, microfinance institutions and social impact investors that offer loans and mentoring to women entrepreneurs, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

4. Mobilising funds for sustainable projects and ensuring that they are used as intended

The EIB was the first institution to issue green bonds in 2007. Since then, the market has grown exponentially, and in August 2024 the Bank's cumulative issuance of Climate Awareness Bonds and Sustainability Awareness Bonds surpassed €100 billion.

These bonds fund projects supporting climate action and broader environmental and social sustainability goals, and they enable the EIB Group to attract deep wells of private capital for impactful projects. The Group is also driving the integration and credibility of green bonds across Europe and globally by focusing on transparency, green bond standards and best practices.

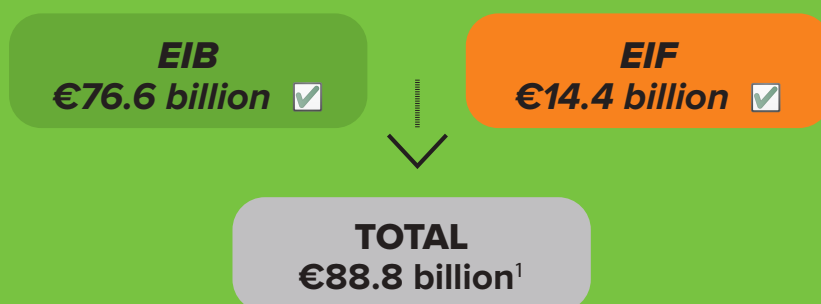
But raising funds is only part of the challenge. Those resources must also be deployed effectively. The EIB Group relies on a robust, multilayered framework that includes stakeholder engagement, due diligence, compliance and governance. This is complemented by a comprehensive independent accountability mechanism, which ensures that financing is used as intended, meets the Group's environmental and social standards, does no harm to the environment or affected communities, and respects human rights.

In addition, the EIB Group fosters a business culture grounded in strong ethical standards and core values, including integrity, respect, cooperation, commitment and equal opportunities. These principles guide every aspect of its operations, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, safeguarding the Group's reputation and supporting the broader interests of the European Union.

The Group's compliance and investigation functions are continuously evolving to prevent, detect and address risks related to fraud, bribery and other misconduct. By prioritising staff awareness, encouraging a culture of speaking up and maintaining robust institutional frameworks, the EIB Group helps preserve public trust and deliver lasting benefits for society while pushing forward the European Union's strategic priorities.

2024 RESULTS

TOTAL FINANCING



Primary public policy goals for European Investment Bank	2024 results
Innovation, digital and human capital	€16.6 billion
Small and medium enterprise and mid-cap finance	€12.2 billion
Sustainable cities and regions	€16.5 billion
Sustainable energy and natural resources	€29.3 billion

Cross-cutting public policy goals at the European Investment Bank level*	
Climate action and environmental sustainability	€44.8 billion ²
Economic and social cohesion**	€33.7 billion

Primary public policy goals for the European Investment Fund	2024 results
Competitiveness, growth and cohesion	€3.3 billion
Innovation	€3.1 billion
Social impact, skills and human capital	€888 million
Sustainability and green transformation	€7.1 billion

Cross-cutting public policy goals at the European Investment Fund level*	
Climate action and environmental sustainability	€6.1 billion
Economic and social cohesion**	€5.5 billion

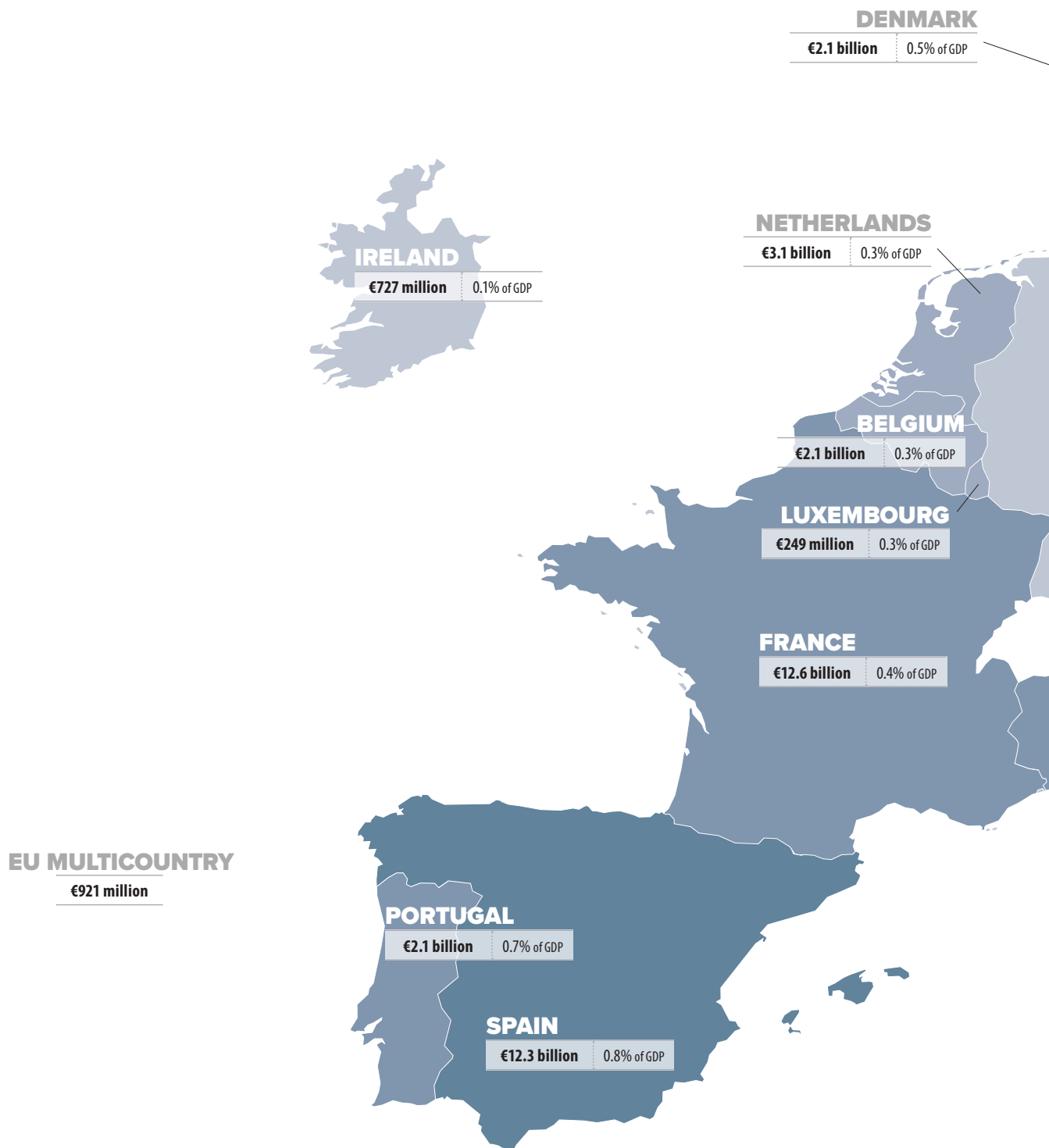
* Our climate action and environmental sustainability (green) and cohesion financing are horizontal indicators and can overlap with each other and other policy goals.

** The EIB Group uses the European Commission criteria for transition and less developed regions established for the 2021–2027 programming period (own resources only).

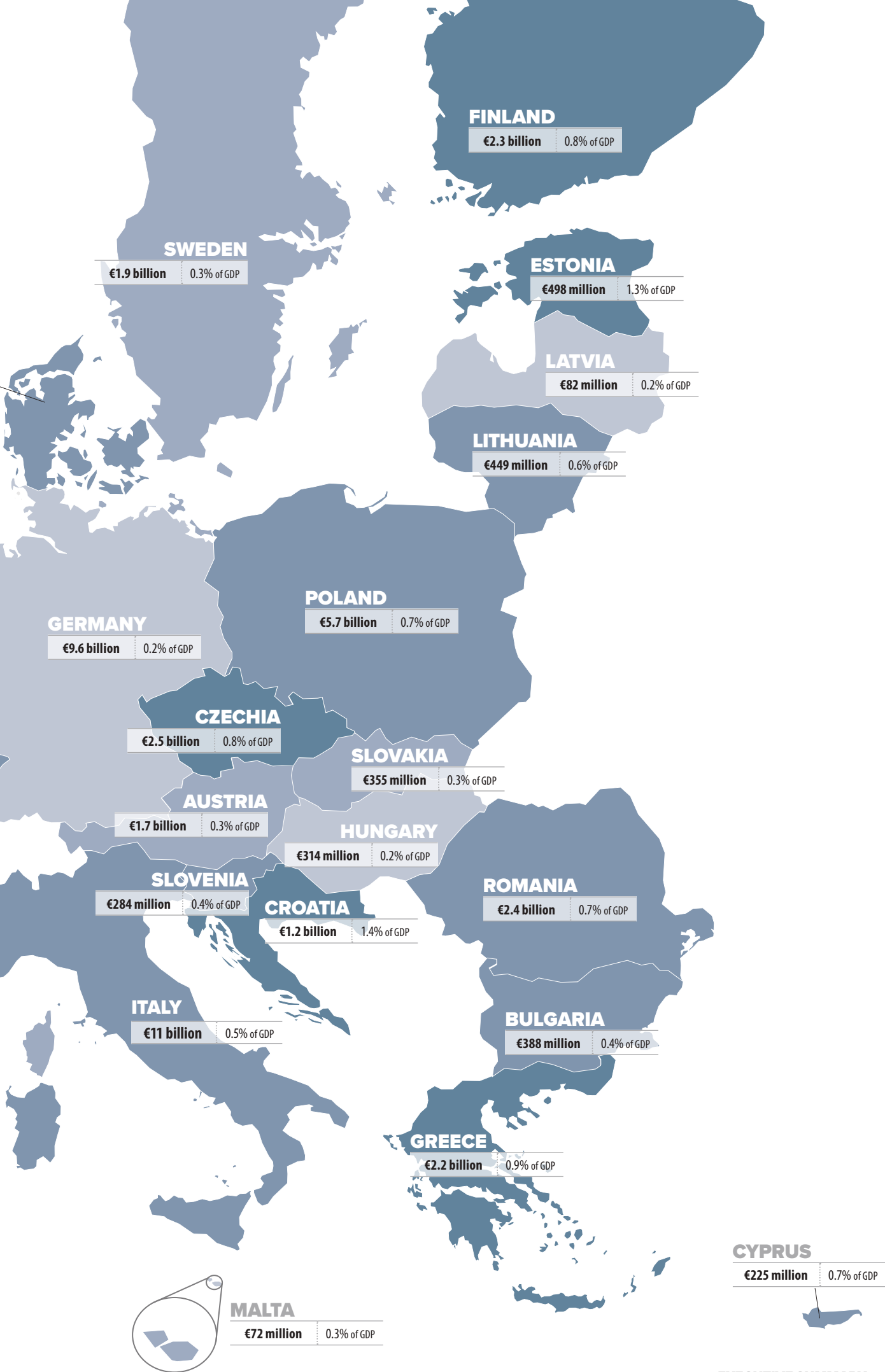
1. The total EIB Group figure includes a number of joint EIB and EIF finance contracts.

2. Financed by the EIB's own resources.

THE EIB GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

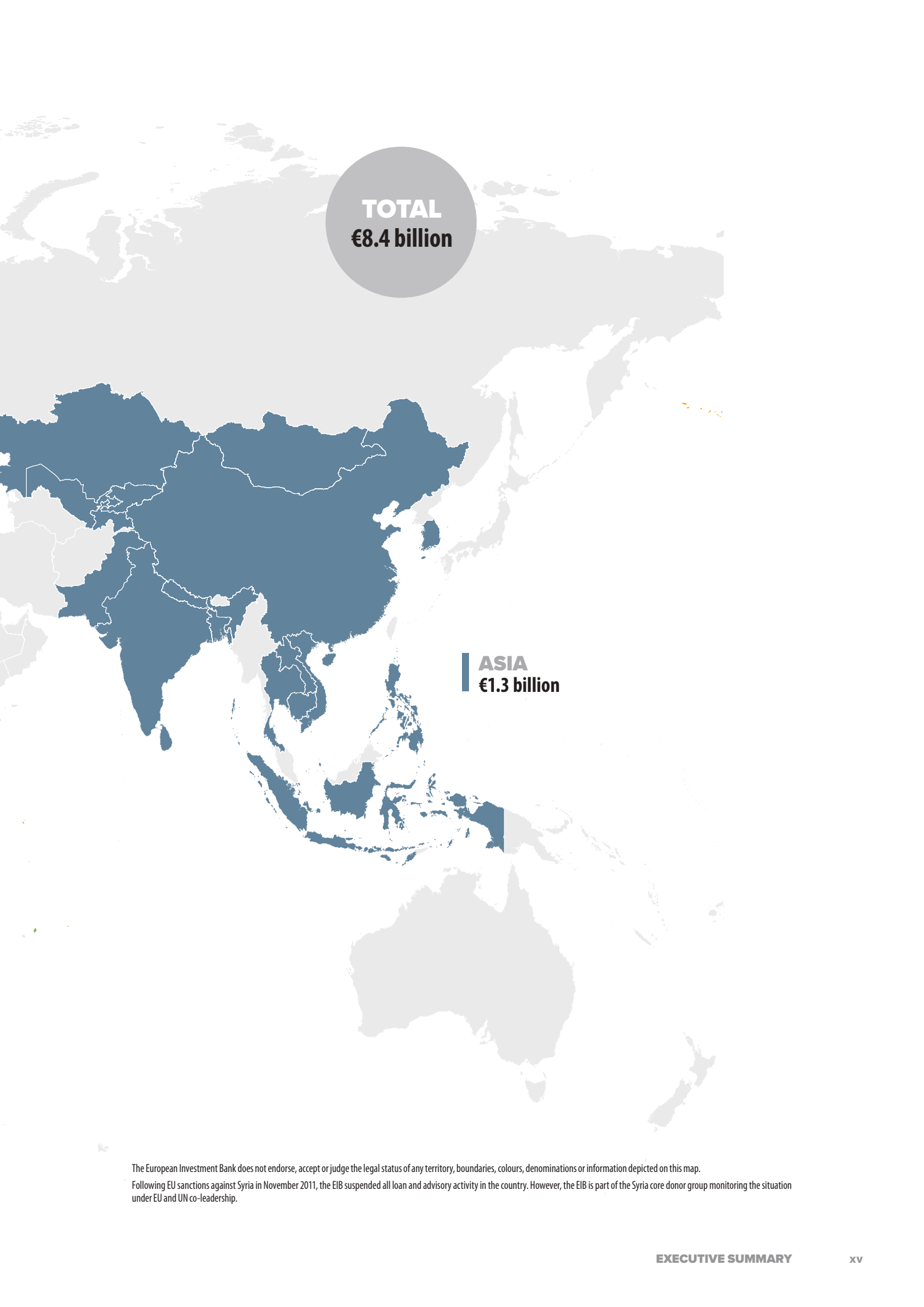


Darker colours signify higher investment as a percentage of gross domestic product.



REST OF THE WORLD





TOTAL
€8.4 billion

ASIA
€1.3 billion

The European Investment Bank does not endorse, accept or judge the legal status of any territory, boundaries, colours, denominations or information depicted on this map.

Following EU sanctions against Syria in November 2011, the EIB suspended all loan and advisory activity in the country. However, the EIB is part of the Syria core donor group monitoring the situation under EU and UN co-leadership.



PART II

BASIS FOR PREPARATION

GENERAL APPROACH

The EIB Group has long been a pioneer in sustainability reporting. It welcomes the European Commission's effort to enhance standardisation, transparency and comparability in corporate sustainability reporting through the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#).

The Group also supports the Commission's ambition to review and simplify the [European Sustainability Reporting Standards](#) and the EU taxonomy under the [Omnibus Directive](#). Simplified reporting will strengthen Europe's competitiveness and facilitate large-scale investment. The revision of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards should ensure that reporting requirements effectively support businesses, financial institutions and other organisations in making well-informed investment and strategic decisions.

In this context, and to the extent possible and compatible with its specific features – including its nature, policy mission, specific tasks and governance structure – the EIB Group has decided to progressively align the disclosures contained in its Sustainability Report with the content and structure of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards. As part of this transition, the Group has consolidated information previously published across separate reports into this new, integrated Sustainability Report. Consequently, the following publications will no longer be issued:¹

- [EIB Group Sustainability Reporting Disclosures in Accordance with the GRI Standards](#);
- [EIB Group report in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures \(TCFD\)](#);
- [EIB Sustainability Disclosures in accordance with Sustainability Accounting Standards Board \(SASB\) Framework](#).

The Sustainability Report now serves as a comprehensive overview of the EIB Group's approach to sustainability.

MATERIALITY BASIS

The EIB Group is progressively aligning its reporting with the requirements of the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#). It is actively working with the European Commission and other partners to revise the European Sustainability Reporting Standards and the EU taxonomy, in the context of the Omnibus Directive. A double materiality assessment, in line with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards, will be carried out once the outcome of this revision process is concluded.

The materiality basis of this report is based on:

- the impact materiality assessment previously required under the GRI Standards;²
- the financial materiality assessment required in accordance with the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures;³
- emerging reporting practices among financial institutions.

1. The [EIB Group Carbon Footprint report](#) was also discontinued and integrated into the [Environmental Statement](#) prepared in accordance to the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme.

2. For more information, please refer to the [EIB Group Sustainability Reporting Disclosures in Accordance with the GRI Standards 2023](#), in particular disclosures 3-1 and 3-2.

3. For more information, please refer to the [EIB Group 2023 Report in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures \(TCFD\)](#) and Chapter 3, "Tackling climate change."

The EIB Group has mapped the location of its material sustainability-related impacts and risks across its value chain, which include upstream activities, own operations and downstream activities:

- **Upstream** refers to the EIB Group’s procurement and key service providers as well as relevant treasury operations. Material topics in this area are limited to the issuance of Climate Awareness Bonds and Sustainability Awareness Bonds.
- **Own operations** encompass the Group’s activities, workforce and processes in Luxembourg and other sites. Material topics here include the own workforce and business conduct.
- **Downstream** covers the EIB Group’s financing activities, including lending, guarantees, equity and fund investments, and intermediated operations. The most significant climate, environmental and social impacts and risk exposures are concentrated downstream, across the Group’s portfolio of operations.

Although not considered material, the climate impact of the Group’s upstream and own operations is presented for information in Chapter 3, “Tackling climate change.” For a more detailed presentation, please refer to the EIB Group’s [Environmental Statement](#) validated in accordance to the [EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme](#).

This report includes an introductory chapter that presents the general approach to sustainability, followed by dedicated sections on:

- Climate change
- Pollution
- Water and marine resources
- Biodiversity
- Circular economy
- Affected communities
- Workers in the value chain
- Own workforce
- Business conduct

Scope of consolidation

The EIB Group’s sustainability reporting covers the European Investment Bank (EIB, or the Bank) and its subsidiary, the European Investment Fund (EIF, or the Fund). Where information applies exclusively to the EIB or the EIF, this is clearly indicated throughout the publication. The list of entities included in sustainability reporting is consistent with those presented in the Group’s financial report.⁴

Reporting period

The EIB Group Sustainability Report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, in alignment with Group’s financial reporting cycle.⁵

Assurance

The EIB Group engaged its external auditor, KPMG, to provide limited assurance on selected statements and figures within the report. These audited statements are clearly marked in italics and accompanied by a tick symbol .

4. See “Subsidiaries” in the [Financial Report 2024](#) for more information.

5. Please [contact us](#) for any questions or comments in respect of sustainability reporting.





PART III

GENERAL DISCLOSURES



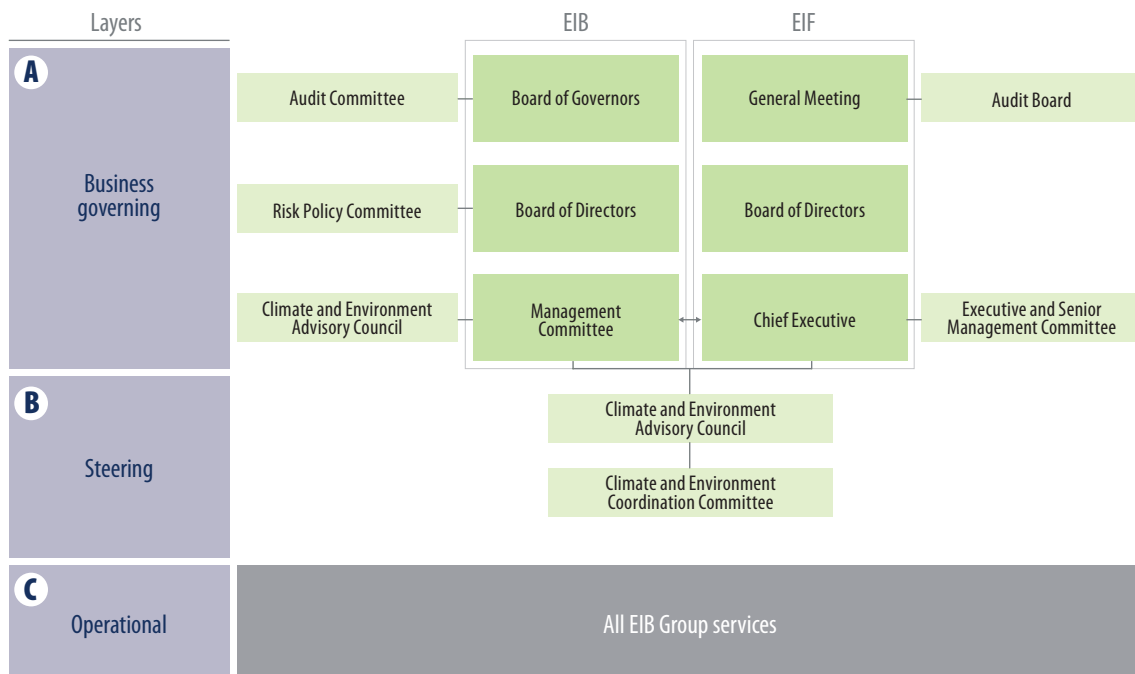
1. GENERAL INFORMATION



1.1. SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

1.1.1. EIB Group sustainability governance

FIGURE 1: EIB AND EIF STATUTORY AND ADVISORY BODIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Source: EIB Group

Please note this is a non-exhaustive overview of governance that focuses on sustainability.¹

1. See also [EIB Group Corporate Governance Report](#)

1.1.1.1. Layer A: Business governing bodies

The Bank's statutory bodies

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is the European Investment Bank's highest governing body. It meets once a year and is made up of ministers (usually finance ministers) designated by each EU Member State, the Bank's shareholders.

The Board of Governors lays down general directives for the Bank's credit policy in accordance with the European Union's objectives, approves the annual accounts and balance sheet, decides on the Bank's operations beyond the European Union and approves capital increases. The Board of Governors also appoints the members of the Board of Directors, the Management Committee and the Audit Committee.

In accordance with the EIB's Rules of Procedure, the office of chair of the Board of Governors is held by each member of the board on a yearly rotation basis, according to the order of protocol of the Member States established by the Council of the European Union. The chair is a minister designated by a Member State and is therefore a non-executive officer.

Board of Directors

The Bank's Board of Directors is a non-resident body with 28 directors (one appointed by each Member State and one by the European Commission), 31 alternate directors and up to six experts who are non-voting members.

The Board of Directors meets at least six times a year and ensures that the Bank is run in accordance with the EU treaties, the EIB Statute and the general directives laid down by the Board of Governors.

The Board of Directors approves the Bank's operational plan, financing operations (including those supporting climate action and environmental sustainability objectives) and climate-related policies and strategic documents. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings are published on the Bank's website.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is the Bank's permanent collegiate executive governing body. It meets once a week and consists of nine members: a president and eight vice-presidents, appointed for a period of six years by the Board of Governors.

The Management Committee oversees the day-to-day management of the Bank, under the authority of the president and the supervision of the Board of Directors. It prepares decisions for the Board of Directors and ensures that they are implemented.

Each member of the Management Committee oversees specific areas, including economic, environmental and social topics. These responsibilities are listed on the [Bank's website](#).

The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is an independent body that reports directly to the Board of Governors. Its six full members and three observers are appointed by the Board of Governors for a non-renewable term of six consecutive financial years.

The Audit Committee ensures that the Bank's activities comply with the Statute and Rules of Procedure, with particular attention to risk management and monitoring, including climate risk. The Audit Committee is responsible for auditing the Bank's accounts and for verifying that the Bank conforms to best banking practice.

The Bank's advisory bodies

Risk Policy Committee

A Risk Policy Committee, made up of nine members of the Board of Directors and a chairperson, advises the board on whether the Bank's policies for identifying, assessing and managing risks, including environmental, climate and social risks, are consistent with the Group's risk appetite. It does so by providing non-binding opinions and/or recommendations on the following high-level risk policy documents, based on proposals from the Bank:

- Group risk management charter
- Group capital sustainability policy
- Group risk appetite framework
- Group internal capital adequacy assessment process
- Group internal liquidity adequacy assessment process
- Group contingency funding plan
- Group recovery plan
- Group stress testing framework

The Risk Policy Committee is regularly briefed on the tools and processes developed to integrate environmental, climate and social risks into the Group's frameworks, with a focus on stress testing. The committee also looks at the risk appetite framework and the internal capital adequacy assessment process.

The EIB Group Climate and Environment Advisory Council

The **EIB Group Climate and Environment Advisory Council** provides external high-level expertise and strategic insight to inform the Group's climate and environmental action. The Climate and Environment Advisory Council is composed of ten members and a chairperson. It brings together a balanced group of recognised experts and leaders from European and international institutions, civil society organisations, academia, think tanks and the private sector, offering a wide range of skills and perspectives to the EIB Group.

Since 2021, the council has been convened by the chairperson and the Bank's vice-president responsible for climate action and environmental sustainability. The council usually meets twice a year and is currently chaired by Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank.

In 2024, the council met on 25 March and 2 December to discuss carbon markets, green pricing, advisory on climate and environmental issues, and the Bank's water programme.

EIF governing bodies

The General Meeting

The General Meeting is the highest governing body of the European Investment Fund (EIF). It consists of one representative from each of the **EIF's shareholders**: the Bank (usually the president or a vice-president), the European Commission representing the European Union and a representative of each of the shareholding financial institutions. It decides on proposals with strategic implications, including changes to the EIF's tasks and activities, increases in the EIF's authorised capital, the appropriation and distribution of net income and the admission of new EIF shareholders. It also approves the EIF's annual report, balance sheet and profit and loss account, and appoints the members of the Board of Directors and the Audit Board.

The EIF Board of Directors

The EIF Board of Directors consists of seven members and seven alternates, designated by the Fund's shareholders and appointed by the General Meeting. The Bank designates four members and four alternates, the European Commission designates two members and two alternates, and the financial

institutions together designate one member and one alternate. The Board meets at least once every calendar quarter, and usually nine to ten times a year, or more if needed.

The EIF Board oversees all EIF operations and adopts the guidelines and directives for the EIF's operations and management. It submits the annual accounts and the annual report on the activities of the Fund to the general meeting. The Board of Directors also approves the EIF's annual operational plan and the key performance indicators and targets for its thematic policy objectives, including those related to climate action and environmental sustainability. The minutes of the Board's meetings are published on the EIF website.

The chief executive

The chief executive is nominated by the Bank, as the largest shareholder, and appointed by the Board of Directors. The chief executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the European Investment Fund. Certain matters meeting specific criteria, including operations, may be approved by the chief executive, under delegation from the Board of Directors. The chief executive also submits the EIF's operational plan – entailing operational, strategic and budgetary implications – to the Board of Directors for approval.

Under the EIF Statutes, the chief executive may be assisted by a deputy, nominated by the European Commission, as the shareholder with the second highest number of shares. The deputy chief executive replaces the chief executive in their absence and holds the same powers.

The Audit Board

The Audit Board is an independent body that reports directly to the General Meeting. It consists of six members, designated by the EIF's shareholders and mandated to act in line with the professional standards of their field. Three members are designated by the Bank, two members by the European Commission and one member by the financial institutions, acting collectively.

The Audit Board has the statutory responsibility to confirm each year that, to the best of its knowledge and judgment, the EIF's balance sheet and profit and loss account give a true and fair view of its financial position and operation results for the year under review. It also confirms that the EIF's operations have been carried out in compliance with the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure and are based on sound banking principles or other applicable commercial principles and practices, as applicable to the EIF.

Executive and Senior Management Committee

The Executive and Senior Management Committee was established in January 2023 to help the chief executive make sound and well-informed decisions in the day-to-day management of the EIF. Chaired by the head of cabinet, the committee includes the chief executive, the deputy chief executive and the directors reporting directly to the chief executive, namely the secretary general and general counsel, the chief investment officer, the chief financial officer and head of finance and strategy office, the chief people officer and the chief risk officer.

1.1.1.2. Layer B: Responsibilities at the steering level

The EIB Group Climate and Environmental Steering Committee

The Climate and Environmental Steering Committee oversees the implementation of the Climate Bank Roadmap. It is made up of the Bank's directors general and the EIF's chief executive and deputy chief executive and is chaired by Vice-President Ambroise Fayolle, a member of the Management Committee. The committee meets as required.

The EIB Group Climate and Environment Coordination Committee

The Climate and Environment Coordination Committee brings together all relevant EIB Group departments to coordinate the Group's work on climate and environmental issues and to support the exchange of information and good practices. The committee meets once a week.

1.1.1.3. Layer C: Responsibilities at the operational level

Within the Bank, different directorates are responsible for sustainability-related activities:

TABLE 1: EIB RELEVANT DIRECTORATES AND THEIR ROLES

<p>Finance Directorate</p> <p>Through the sustainable finance unit, develops Climate Awareness Bonds (CAB) and Sustainability Awareness Bonds (SAB) and works in close cooperation with the Projects Directorate’s CAB and SAB coordinators.</p>
<p>Group Risk and Compliance Directorate</p> <p>Develops and manages tools and processes to integrate sustainability risks into the Group’s risk management framework and policies.</p>
<p>Inspectorate General</p> <p>Groups together three independent accountability functions: evaluations of EIB Group activities, investigations into prohibited conduct and the complaints mechanism. All three fall under the authority of the Inspector General.</p>
<p>Operations Directorate and EIB Global</p> <p>Identifies and prepares investments and offers advisory services. Investments supported by the Bank contribute directly to climate, environment and broader sustainability objectives, in line with EU priorities.</p> <p>The Operations Directorate and EIB Global perform the assessment of the Paris Alignment of Counterparties (PATH) framework together with the Projects Directorate.</p> <p>Climate Office Within the Operations Directorate, provides strategic and operational support on climate-related operations.</p>
<p>Portfolio Management and Monitoring</p> <p>Proactively and strategically manages the Bank’s client relationships and exposures throughout the loan lifecycle and monitors lending operations, including the counterparties involved in the operations.</p>
<p>Projects Directorate</p> <p>Provides technical due diligence on environmental and social standards, climate action and environmental sustainability targets and the EIB Group framework to support the PATH framework.</p> <p>Together with the Operations Directorate and EIB Global, helps maximise the positive environmental and social impact of the Bank’s financing.</p> <p>Environmental, Climate and Social Office Performs the quality assurance of climate statements and helps shape the Bank’s approach to sustainability reporting. Made up of technical experts who develop the Bank’s strategy, policies and procedures on climate, environmental and social issues, and who represent the Bank in technical working groups and conferences and help clients and partners develop skills through training and advisory services.</p>
<p>Secretariat General</p> <p>Group Strategy Department Ensures strategic alignment with global partners, including through the participation in high-level international forums, for scaling up sustainability financing.</p> <p>Climate Bank Roadmap project management office Supports planning, monitoring, reporting and knowledge-sharing related to the Climate Bank Roadmap.</p> <p>Sustainability Division Leads sustainability-related reporting and manages stakeholder engagement.</p>

Source: EIB Group

TABLE 2: EIF RELEVANT DIRECTORATES AND THEIR ROLES IN SUSTAINABILITY

<p>Investment Office</p> <p>Contributes to developing and delivering the EIF's strategy and vision by implementing the operational plans for fundraising and deployment.</p> <p>Supports every stage of the transaction life cycle, from designing mandates and products to building and executing portfolios and ensuring that transactions are completed efficiently.</p>
<p>Client Services</p> <p>Oversees the inclusion of operations in the portfolio, monitors and reports on climate and environmental financing across different mandates and financial products.</p>
<p>Equity Investments and Guarantees Securitisation and Inclusive Finance</p> <p>Develops equity operations focused on sustainability, due diligence, the assessment of environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices of financial institutions, and the evaluation of climate action and environmental targets of these operations.</p>
<p>Mandate Design and Product Development</p> <p>Sustainability Team Provides expertise on sustainability across the investment process and shares the EIF's approach with market participants, partners and policymakers.</p> <p>Coordinates measures related to the Climate Bank Roadmap and oversees climate action and environmental sustainability measures, in line with the Paris agreement.</p> <p>Designs the sustainability criteria for all investment products (debt and equity) across all mandates. Works with EIB Advisory to develop tools and represents the EIF in the platform on sustainable finance.</p>
<p>Mandate Origination and Relationship Management</p> <p>Identifies and develops new mandates focused on climate action and environmental sustainability.</p>
<p>Resource Planning and Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Plans, monitors and coordinates fundraising and investment activities, including the annual climate action and environmental target set in the EIF's Corporate Operational Plan.</p>
<p>Risk Office</p> <p>Sustainability Risk and Compliance Unit Contributes to non-financial reporting, including input to the Group's Sustainability Report. It carries out climate risk and ESG assessments and advises the Investment Office on excluded and restricted activities and sectors.</p> <p>Reviews, updates and implements the EIF Transparency Policy. The unit acts as a second line of defence for the EIF's public policy goals.</p>

Source: EIB Group

1.1.2. How governing bodies oversee sustainability

1.1.2.1. Reporting on due diligence and monitoring

The Bank's governing bodies receive documentation that supports and informs their decision making process, including the results of the Bank's risk-based environmental, climate and social appraisal (see the description of due diligence process), and any relevant monitoring requirements.

The information submitted may include:

- environmental, climate and social impact and risks;
- measures to avoid, prevent and reduce significant negative adverse effects and, if needed, to remedy/compensate any remaining issues;
- environmental and social benefits, including how the project contributes to the Bank's sustainability targets and commitments and an outline of the stakeholder engagement process already carried out. The information may also contain specific environmental, climate and/or social contractual conditions and/or undertakings, including monitoring and reporting requirements, which should be reflected in the legal documentation signed with the project promoter.²

These elements are summarised in the environmental and social data sheet. For projects approved since 2012, these sheets, which are part of projects approved by the Bank's relevant governing bodies, are published on the Bank's [public register](#). For more details, see the presentation of the public register in Chapter 1.5, "Stakeholder engagement and accountability."

After a project is completed, an assessment of the environmental and social issues are summarised in the Bank's environmental and social completion sheets, which are published on the public register, subject to previous publication of the related environmental and social data sheet.

1.1.2.2. Working groups tasked with assessing environmental and social risks

The Bank's Board of Directors examines environmental and social risks through its Working Group on Lending Policies, Evaluation and Impact. This group met twice in 2024.

In addition, the Working Group on Assessing Financing Proposal reviews all related operational aspects, including social and environmental risks, when relevant. In 2024, the group met nine times.

1.1.2.3. Reporting on evaluation to governing bodies

The Inspectorate General's evaluation division promotes accountability through independent evidence-based assessments of the EIB Group's performance and results. It also supports learning, sharing feedback and knowledge to inform the Group's decisions on policies, strategies, products, projects and organisational matters, helping to improve performance. The division's work is guided by [The EIB Group Evaluation Policy](#).

Every year, the evaluation division presents its annual activity report and a forward-looking three-year rolling [work programme](#) to the Bank's governing bodies. The division's work is organised around four main themes, aligned with the Bank's public policy goals and the Group's Strategic Roadmap adopted in June 2024:

- delivering as the climate bank;
- contributing to a competitive, resilient and inclusive Europe;
- investing worldwide for impact, through EIB Global;
- managing quality, efficiency and impact.

Building knowledge around these themes fosters synergies between evaluations, encourages cross-learning and supports the sharing of lessons learnt from the evaluations, related studies and follow-up recommendations.

2. See [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#), paragraphs 4.24 and 4.25.

Key topics assessed in 2024 – through completed or ongoing evaluations – include:

- the [EIB Group debt support for small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps](#);
- the [Bank's support for agriculture and bioeconomy beyond the European Union](#) from 2014-2023;
- the [Group's Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#);
- the Bank's [energy lending policy](#);
- the Bank's use of [framework loans to address disasters and emergencies](#);
- the [EIB Group's gender strategy](#);
- the Bank's [Additionality and Impact Measurement framework](#).

For more information, see the [Evaluation Activity Report 2024 and Work Programme 2025-2027](#).

1.1.3. Composition, competencies and remuneration of the statutory bodies

1.1.3.1. Composition of the statutory bodies

TABLE 3: EIB BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Name	Function	Country
Lyudmila PETKOVA (Chair)	Minister of Finance	Bulgaria
Vincent VAN PETEGHEM	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance	Belgium
Zbyněk STANJURA	Minister of Finance	Czechia
Morten BØDSKOV	Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs	Denmark
Jörg KUKIES	Federal Minister of Finance	Germany
Jürgen LIGI	Minister of Finance	Estonia
Jack CHAMBERS	Minister for Finance	Ireland
Konstantinos HATZIDAKIS	Minister of Economy and Finance	Greece
Carlos CUERPO	Minister for Economy, Trade and Business	Spain
Éric LOMBARD	Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty	France
Marko PRIMORAC	Minister of Finance	Croatia
Giancarlo GIORGETTI	Minister of Economy and Finance	Italy
Makis KERAVNOS	Minister of Finance	Cyprus
Arvils AŠERADENS	Minister of Finance	Latvia
Rimantas ŠADŽIUS	Minister of Finance	Lithuania
Gilles ROTH	Minister of Finance	Luxembourg
Márton NAGY	Minister for National Economy	Hungary
Clyde CARUANA	Minister of Finance and Employment	Malta
Eelco HEINEN	Minister of Finance	Netherlands
Gunter MAYR	Federal Minister of Finance	Austria
Andrzej DOMAŃSKI	Minister of Finance	Poland
Joaquim MIRANDA SARMENTO	Minister of State and Finance	Portugal
Barna TÁNCZOS	Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister	Romania
Klemen BOŠTJANČIČ	Minister of Finance	Slovenia
Ladislav KAMENICKÝ	Minister of Finance	Slovakia
Riikka PURRA	Minister of Finance	Finland
Elisabeth SVANTESSON	Minister for Finance	Sweden

In 2024, 89% of members of the Bank's Board of Governors were men and 11% were women.

TABLE 4: EIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Function	Country
Directors		
Hans D'HONDT	Member of the Board of Directors of the EIB	Belgium
Metodi METODIEV	Deputy Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance	Bulgaria
Petr PAVELEK	Director of Debt and Financial Assets Management Department, Ministry of Finance	Czechia
Julie SONNE	Head of Division, Ministry for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs	Denmark
Judith HERMES	Director General, European Policy at International Financial Policy Department, Federal Ministry of Finance	Germany
Martin PÖDER	Head of EU and International Affairs Department, Ministry of Finance	Estonia
Des CARVILLE	Head of Shareholding and Financial Advisory Division, Department of Finance	Ireland
Michael ARGHYROU	Chair of Council of Economic Advisors, Ministry of Finance	Greece
Inés CARPIO SAN ROMÁN	Director General of International Financing at Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business	Spain
Claire CHEREMETINSKI	Deputy Director General, Directorate-General of the Treasury, Ministry for Economic Affairs	France
Davor ZORIČIĆ	State Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Croatia
Francesca UTILI	Director General for International Financial Relations Directorate, Ministry of the Economy and Finance	Italy
Costas CONSTANTINIDES	Senior Economic Officer, Directorate of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance	Cyprus
Armands EBERHARDS	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Latvia
Darius TRAKELIS	Director of EU and International Affairs Department, Ministry of Finance	Lithuania
Arsène JACOBY	Director of Multilateral Affairs, Development Aid, Cooperation and Compliance, Ministry of Finance	Luxembourg
Levente SIPOS-TOMPA	Chair and Chief Executive Officer, MFB Hungarian Development Bank	Hungary
Martin SPITERI	Director General, Ministry of Finance	Malta
Robin UYTERLINDE	Deputy Director of the International Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Netherlands
Karin RYSAVY	Senior Expert, Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance	Austria
Tomasz SKURZEWSKI	Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance	Poland
Filipe CARTAXO	Member of the Board of Directors of the EIB	Portugal
Mihai-Călin PRECUP	President of Council for the Application of State Aid Policy, Ministry of Public Finance	Romania
Aleš ŠKOBERNE	Chief Executive Officer, ECM Partners	Slovenia
Martina KOBILICOVÁ	Director General, Advisor to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance	Slovakia
Kristina SARJO	Senior Ministerial Advisor, Financial Affairs, International Financial Affairs Unit, Ministry of Finance	Finland
Sara TÄGTSTRÖM	Senior Advisor at the International and Economics Department, Ministry of Finance	Sweden
Elena FLORES GUAL	Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission	European Commission
Experts		
Joes LEOPOLD	Managing Partner at Capitium	Netherlands
Esther RECKTENWALD	Deputy Director General of IT, Deutsche Bundesbank	Germany
Olivier BAILLY	Deputy Managing Director and Director for Global Issues, European External Action Service	France
Alternates		
Philippe NIZEYIMANA	Advisor to the Administration of International and European Financial Matters of the Treasury	Belgium
Gergana BEREMSKA	Director, International Financial Institutions, Ministry of Finance	Bulgaria

TABLE 4: EIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Name	Function	Country
Alternates		
Radek HŘEBÍK	Head of State Financing and Treasury Liquidity Management Division, Ministry of Finance	Czechia
Morten PRÆSTEGAARD KLINGE	Chief Special Advisor at Department of Financial Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs	Denmark
Hendrik KAEUBLE	Head of Division, Directorate General European Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action	Germany
Susanne BLOMENHOFER	Senior Policy Advisor, Directorate General for European Affairs, Federal Ministry of Finance	Germany
Riina LAIGO	Advisor in the EU and International Affairs Department, Ministry of Finance	Estonia
Michael TAGGART	Principal Officer responsible for European IFIs/Risk and Compliance, Department of Finance	Ireland
Charilaos LAMBROPOULOS	President, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments	Greece
Isabel GARAYO ORBE	Alternate Deputy Director General, EU Economic and Financial Affairs Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Enterprise	Spain
Pierre-Marie VOEGELI	Head of Unit – European bilateral relations and EU financial instruments, Directorate-General of the Treasury	France
Quentin NAVARO AUBURTIN	Deputy Head of Unit – European Financial Instruments, Directorate General of the Treasury	France
Ines ŠPIRIĆ	Head of Business Analysis Sector, Ministry of Finance	Croatia
Francesca MERCUSA	Director, International Financial Relations Directorate, Department of the Treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance	Italy
Bianca GIANNINI	Director, Treasury Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance	Italy
Eleni PITTA	Economic Officer A, Directorate of International Financial Institutions and General Financial Management, Ministry of Finance	Cyprus
Aija ZITCERE	Director of Financial Market Policy Department, Ministry of Finance	Latvia
Jurgita UZIELIENĖ	Senior Advisor, EU and International Affairs Department, Ministry of Finance	Lithuania
Miguel MARQUES	Deputy Director, Multilateral Affairs and Development Aid, Ministry of Finance	Luxembourg
Ildikó ZÁTRÓK	General Deputy Chief Executive Officer, MFB Hungarian Development Bank	Hungary
Joseph LICARI	Economic Consultant	Malta
Timo BAKRIN	EIB Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Finance	Netherlands
Christian REININGER	Advisor to the Federal Minister of Finance, Federal Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Austria	Austria
Maciej TABACZAR	Counsellor, International Financial Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance	Poland
Rosa CAETANO	Deputy Director General of the Office for Economic Policy and International Relations, Ministry of Finance	Portugal
Boni Florinela CUCU	General Director, General Directorate for International Financial Relations, Ministry of Public Finance	Romania
Martin ZDOVC	Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Slovenia
Peter FRÖHLICH	Chief Executive Officer, Slovak Investment Holding	Slovakia
Anne AF URSIN	Financial Counsellor, Ministry of Finance	Finland
Erika CARLSSON	Advisor at International and Economics Department, Ministry of Finance	Sweden
Saila VALTONEN	Advisor, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs	European Commission
Alternate expert		
Giorgio GOBBI	Head of the Milan Regional branch, Italian Central Bank	Italy
Antonio OPORTO	Secretary General at Circulo de Empresarios	Spain
Isabel RAMOS DE ALMEIDA	Alternate Expert to the EIB Board of Directors	Portugal

In 2024, 57.8% of members of the Bank's Board of Directors were men and 42.2% were women.

TABLE 5: EIF BOARD OF DIRECTORS (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024)

Name	Function
Chair	
Nadia CALVIÑO	President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Members	
Giorgio CHIARION CASONI	Director, InvestEU and financial institutions, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission, Luxembourg
Lutz-Christian FUNKE	Secretary General, KfW Bankengruppe, Germany
Haris LAMBROPOULOS	President, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments, Greece
Metodi METODIEV	Deputy Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance, Bulgaria
Maive RUTE	Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission, Belgium
Gelsomina VIGLIOTTI	Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Alternates	
Nicola BEER	Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Peter BERKOWITZ	Director, Policy, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, Belgium
Martina COLOMBO	Head of EU Affairs, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Italy
Mikołaj DOWGIELEWICZ	Deputy Secretary General, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Ambroise FAYOLLE	Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Jean-Christophe LALOUX	Director General, Head of Operations, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Vacant position ³	

In 2024, 62% of members of the EIF's Board of Directors were men and 38% were women.

TABLE 6: EIB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name	Function	Country
Nadia CALVIÑO	President	Spain
Ambroise FAYOLLE	Vice-President	France
Thomas ÖSTROS	Vice-President	Sweden
Teresa Tatiana CZERWIŃSKA	Vice-President	Poland
Gelsomina VIGLIOTTI	Vice-President	Italy
Kyriacos KAKOURIS	Vice-President	Cyprus
Nicola BEER	Vice-President	Germany
Robert de GROOT	Vice-President	Netherlands
Ioannis TSAKIRIS	Vice-President	Greece

In 2024, 55.6% of the EIB's Management Committee were men and 44.4% were women.

TABLE 7: EIF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024)

Name	Function
Marjut FALKSTEDT	Chief Executive
Roger HAVENITH	Deputy Chief Executive

In 2024, 50% of the EIF's executive management were men and 50% were women.

3. Vacancy resulting from the resignation of European Commission-nominated alternate member Anna PANAGOPOULOU as of 12 December 2024.

TABLE 8: EIB AUDIT COMMITTEE (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024)

Name	Function	Country
Chair		
Nuno GRACIAS FERNANDES	Professor of Finance, IESE Business School	Portugal
Members		
Katja PLUTO	Independent Non-Executive Director	Germany
Eva-Lena NORGREN	Chief Judge and Head of Authority, Gothenburg District Court	Sweden
Christoph HAAS	Former EY Partner	Luxembourg
Tereza ROGIĆ LUGARIĆ	State Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Croatia
Vacant	–	–
Observers		
John SUTHERLAND	Former Senior Advisor, Financial Conduct Authority	United Kingdom
Beatrice DEVILLON-COHEN	Independent Non-Executive Director for MUFG Securities EMEA	United Kingdom / France
Vasile IUGA	Former PwC Audit Partner	Romania

TABLE 9: EIF AUDIT BOARD (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024)

Name	Function
Chair	
Sergio SIERRA	Head of Funding and Treasury, Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO), Spain
Members	
Rossella LOCATELLI	Full Professor in Banking and Finance, Department of Economics, University of Insubria, Italy
Jacek DOMINIK	General Counsel, Ministry of Finance, Poland
Delphine REYMONDON	Head of the Liquidity, Leverage, Loss Absorbency and Capital (LILLAC) Unit European Banking Authority - Prudential Regulation and Supervisory Policy Department, France
Isabelle GOUBIN	Independent Director
Edwin CROONEN	Head of Unit, Audit in Commission, Executive Agencies, EU Agencies and other autonomous bodies III, Resources, European Commission Internal Audit Service, Belgium

For more details on the EIB Group statutory bodies, please refer to page 31 of the EIB Group [Financial Report 2024](#).

1.1.3.2. Independence of the statutory bodies

The Bank's governance structure reflects its unique status and functioning.

The members of the Bank's Board of Directors, Management Committee and the Audit Committee are required to act independently. When carrying out their duties, members of the Management Committee and Board of Directors are accountable only to the Bank.⁴

Six of the 65 members of the Bank's Board of Directors are appointed as experts and may be understood as independent Board members, as they are not nominated by the Bank's shareholders. However, they do not have voting rights.

Likewise, the composition of the EIF's governing bodies reflects the Fund's specific shareholder structure. Members of the EIF's Board of Directors are designated by each shareholder constituency, and therefore are not considered independent in the traditional sense. However, under the EIF's Statutes and the Board's Code of Conduct, they are required to act independently and to serve the best interests of the EIF when performing their duties.

4. Besides independence, the fiduciary duty or duty of loyalty ("responsible only to the Bank") of Board and Management Committee members is laid out in relevant provisions of the Bank's Statute.

1.1.3.3. Selection and competencies of members of the statutory bodies

The Bank's Board of Directors

The Bank's 28 directors and 31 alternate directors are appointed by the Board of Governors for a renewable five-year term. Directors are selected based on proven independence and professional competence, as required by the Bank's Statute. To strengthen its expertise, the Board also includes three non-voting experts and their three alternates, who provide more high-level insights. Their terms are aligned with those of the full board.

The Bank's Management Committee and Audit Committee

The Bank places great importance on the professionalism, integrity and competence of its leadership. The Appointment Advisory Committee plays a key role, as set out in Articles 23.a.2 and 27.8 of the EIB's Rules of Procedure, providing independent and expert opinions on the suitability of candidates for positions within the Management Committee and the Audit Committee, before their formal appointment by the Board of Governors.

As part of its evaluation of the Management Committee's collective expertise, the Appointment Advisory Committee consults the Bank's president to ensure that nominations respond to skill needs identified at the time of appointment. When a vacancy arises, the secretary general communicates the requirements to the nominating Member State.

Under Article 23.a of the Bank's Rules of Procedure, Management Committee members must demonstrate proven competence, independence, integrity and a strong reputation in their fields. They are required to have substantial experience in financial, banking, or EU-related matters and to have the skills and judgment needed to perform their duties at the highest level.

Further details on the professional backgrounds and qualifications of members of the Bank's statutory bodies are in their curricula vitae on the Bank's website.

EIF governing bodies

The EIF Board of Directors is composed of seven members and seven alternates, designated by the EIF's shareholders. They are appointed by and accountable to the General Meeting, for renewable two-year terms.

The EIF Audit Board consists of six members, designated by the EIF's shareholders. They are mandated to act in accordance with the highest professional standards. Members are appointed by and accountable to the General Meeting, for non-renewable terms of six years – with the exception of mandates held by members in office before 27 September 2022 and those appointed to new positions in 2023. In line with the EIF Rules of Procedure and Audit Board Charter, members of the EIF Audit Board must be selected based on their independence, competence and integrity. Members must possess financial and/or audit expertise and at least one member must have banking and/or fund sector regulatory and/or supervisory expertise in the European Union (known as the minimum qualifications).

The EIF chief executive and deputy chief executive are nominated respectively by the EIB and the European Commission, and appointed by the EIF Board of Directors.

Training for directors

Seminars, information sessions, trainings and development opportunities are available to members of the boards of directors of the Bank and the EIF. A dedicated training section is available on the board portal, and virtual or in-person sessions are offered regularly, by request or based on identified needs and resource availability.

1.1.3.4. Remuneration of the statutory bodies members

The remuneration of the members of the statutory bodies is established in line with the Bank Statute and the EIF Statutes. As a result, the EIB Group does not have incentive schemes for administrative, management or supervisory bodies related to sustainability matters, including climate.

- The members of the **Bank’s Board of Governors** are government ministers. Their participation on the Board meetings is considered to be part of their ministerial duties. Therefore the governors receive no remuneration from the Bank.
- The **EIF General Meeting** is a non-remunerated governing body. It determines the allowances and expense reimbursement for members, alternate members of the Board of Directors and members of the Audit Board.
- The directors, alternate directors, expert members and alternate expert members of the **Bank’s Board of Directors** receive a daily fee of €600 per meeting day and a €250 daily subsistence allowance to cover expenses if they have to stay overnight at the place of the meeting in Luxembourg. The Bank also reimburses the travel expenses incurred by members of the Board of Directors. Members and alternate members of the **EIF Board of Directors** are entitled to receive an attendance allowance of €300 per meeting and a €220 net flat-rate subsistence allowance when travelling to attend a meeting. Travel expenses may also be reimbursed. The members and alternate members do not receive bonuses and are not compensated for meeting preparation or for decisions taken by written procedure.
- Regarding the members of the **Management Committee**, according to a decision of the Board of Governors, the president of the Bank receives the same monthly salary as the president of the European Commission, and the vice-presidents of the European Investment Bank receive the same monthly salary as the vice-presidents of the European Commission (Council Regulation (EU) 2016/300). The president and vice-presidents of the EIB do not receive a bonus. The remuneration of the EIF chief executive and deputy chief executive are set by the EIF Board of Directors.
- **Audit Committee** members do not receive remuneration from the Bank. For each meeting that they attend, members and observers of the Audit Committee receive €1 500 a day for attending meetings. The Bank also pays a flat-rate subsistence allowance of €250 in addition to the reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by individual members. Audit Committee members do not receive a bonus and are not paid for for time spent preparing between meetings. Members of the **EIF Audit Board** are entitled to an attendance allowance of €1 500 net per meeting, a €220 net flat-rate subsistence allowance when travelling to attend an Audit Board meeting and may also claim the reimbursement of associated travel expenses. The members of the EIF Audit Board do not receive a bonus and are not paid for for time spent preparing between meetings.

1.1.4. Statement on due diligence

TABLE 10: CORE ELEMENTS OF DUE DILIGENCE

Core elements of due diligence	Paragraphs in the sustainability report
a) Embedding due diligence in governance, strategy and business model	1.1.1.2, 1.3.4, 1.3.4.2, 1.3.4.3, 1.4.1, 3.3.3.1, 8.4.7
b) Engaging with affected stakeholders in all key steps of the due diligence	6.2.4.4, 6.3.2.3, 6.3.2.5, 8.5.1, 8.5.2
c) Identifying and assessing adverse impacts	4.3.2, 5.3.1, 6.2.4.1, 6.2.4.5, 6.3.1, 8.6, 8.6.1, 9.6
d) Taking actions to address those adverse impacts	6.3.1.1, 8.7, 9.7, 11.4.1, 11.4.2
e) Tracking the effectiveness of these efforts and communicating	1.1.2.1, 1.5.3, 8.1.1



1.1.5. Risk management and internal controls for sustainability reporting

1.1.5.1. Scope of the internal management system

The EIB Group's risk management and internal control processes for sustainability reporting are designed to ensure accuracy, compliance and timeliness. These processes include key components, such as data collection and validation, management reviews and regulatory oversight.⁵

In 2024, management supervision was ensured through:

- the EIB Group sustainability disclosures programme steering committee, which was co-chaired by the EIB secretary general and the Group chief risk officer. The EIF is represented by the EIF chief risk officer.
- the EIF non-financial disclosure steering committee, chaired by the EIF chief compliance officer and head of Central Front Office Services.

1.1.5.2. Managing risks: Prioritisation and mitigation

The EIB Group manages risk through manual and automated processes, recognising that each presents unique risks and opportunities:

- Manual processes, such as data collection and validation, are exposed to human error and inconsistencies. To mitigate these risks, we enforce a four-eyes principle. This ensures accuracy and reduces the likelihood of errors.
- Automated processes, on the other hand, involve the use of IT systems to streamline data collection, validation, and reporting. They are auditable, with logs that track all changes and updates, providing a clear trail for review.

By combining manual and automated steps, the Group aims to build a comprehensive risk management framework that draws on the strengths of both approaches while addressing their respective risks. This integrated approach enables us to prioritise sustainability-related risks effectively and ensures compliance with relevant regulatory requirements as best banking practice.

⁵ See also [EIB Group Risk Management Charter](#) and [EIF Compliance Charter](#).

1.1.5.3. EIB internal controls

Documented processes cover data input, data collection and report production. These processes ensure that the Sustainability Report is published in a compliant, complete, accurate and timely manner. They are linked to specific internal controls that address key risks. These controls are documented within the EIB's Internal Control Framework.

TABLE 11: IDENTIFIED RISKS AND IMPLEMENTED CONTROLS

Identified risk	Control	Proof
Gaps in data point ownership linked to role changes of Sustainability Champions	An annual update of the list of Sustainability Champions is conducted to address any gaps in data point ownership. This ensures that there is always a designated individual responsible for each data point, even if there are changes in roles or responsibilities.	The date of the last update of the Sustainability Champions list reflects the most recent changes, providing a clear record of who is responsible for each data point.
Inaccurate input for data points	Data collection of sensitive data points is reviewed by a four-eyes principle.	This control is enforced via an IT system, and all actions are auditable in the logs. This provides a clear trail of who reviewed the data and when, ensuring accountability and traceability.
Inconsistencies across the report	A critical review of the report's exhaustiveness and transversal consistency is conducted. This involves a thorough examination of the report to ensure that all relevant information is included and that there are no discrepancies or inconsistencies.	Confirmation of this review is provided via email to the head of the Sustainability Team, ensuring that any issues are identified and addressed before the report is finalised.
Lack of executive management ownership within the concerned directorates of the report	A management review is conducted in the concerned directorates to ensure the exhaustiveness and transversal consistency of the report. This review involves senior management to ensure that all relevant aspects are covered and that the report aligns with the organisation's strategic objectives.	The approval is documented via email, providing a record of the management's involvement and endorsement of the report.
Lack of management committee ownership of the report	The Management Committee must approve the report to confirm its readiness for external publication. This step ensures that the highest level of management has reviewed and endorsed the report before it is shared with external stakeholders.	A note to the Management Committee is prepared, documenting their approval and any feedback they may have provided.

A periodic reporting of the findings from risk assessments and internal controls ensures transparency and accountability. The Audit Committee serves as the first escalation point for any material issues identified during the risk assessment process. This ensures that significant issues are promptly addressed at the highest oversight level.

These findings feed into our sustainability reporting process through regular updates to our risk management framework, integration with strategic planning, and alignment with operational procedures. This ensures that sustainability risks are managed proactively and effectively across all functions.

1.2. STRATEGY, BUSINESS MODEL AND VALUE CHAIN

1.2.1. Sustainable finance as our operating model

The EIB Group is the financing arm of the European Union. [Article 309 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) says its task is to “contribute, by having recourse to the capital market and utilising its own resources, to the balanced and steady development of the internal market in the interest of the Union.”

The Bank is committed to supporting the values and objectives laid down in EU policies through its financing and advisory activities, in the European Union and beyond. The EIF was established as an EU body with legal personality and financial autonomy pursuant to the Bank’s [Statute](#), and is governed by the [Statutes of the European Investment Fund](#).

The EIB Group pursues its mission by providing finance and expertise for economically, technically, financially and environmentally sound investments that further EU policy objectives and priorities. Around 90% of EIB Group investments are made in the European Union, and 10% in the rest of the world.

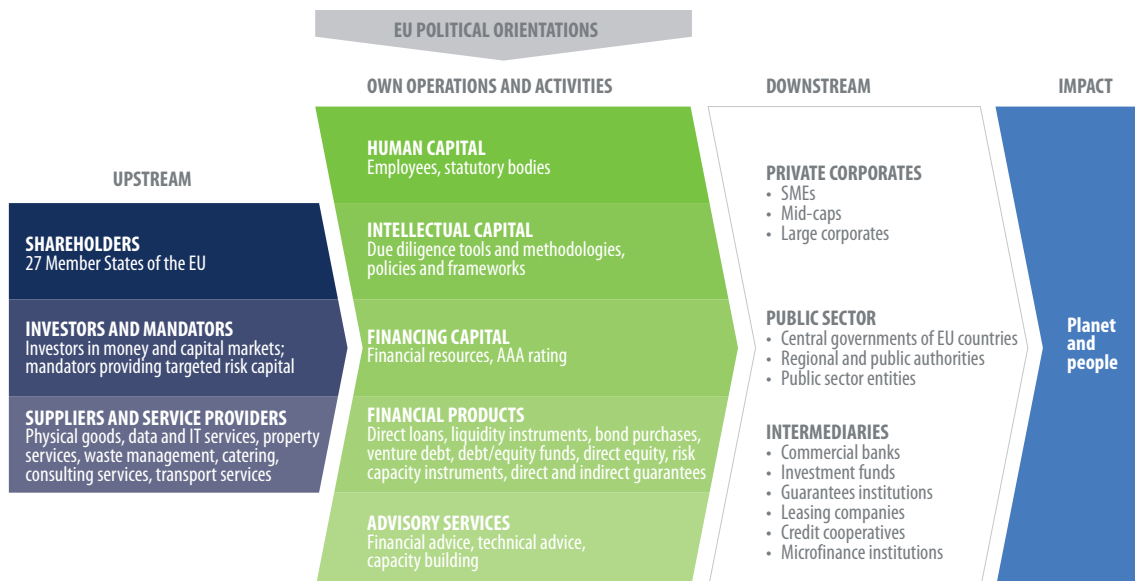
The EIB Group differs considerably from commercial banks in that its activity is driven by public policy objectives. It is a financial institution that does not focus on maximising profit and which applies sound managerial practices (as shown by its triple-A credit rating). The EIB Group therefore has no set target for return on equity. Instead, it aims to generate income that enables it to meet its obligations, cover its expenses and risks, and build up a reserve fund.

Strategically, the EIB Group focuses on being financially viable – not maximising profit – and furthering sustainability-related policy objectives.

Environmental and social sustainability, including climate change and fundamental EU values, are key policy objectives within and beyond the European Union, as clear from the founding EU treaties.

1.2.2. Value chain

FIGURE 2: EIB GROUP VALUE CHAIN



Source: EIB Group

1.2.3. Products and services

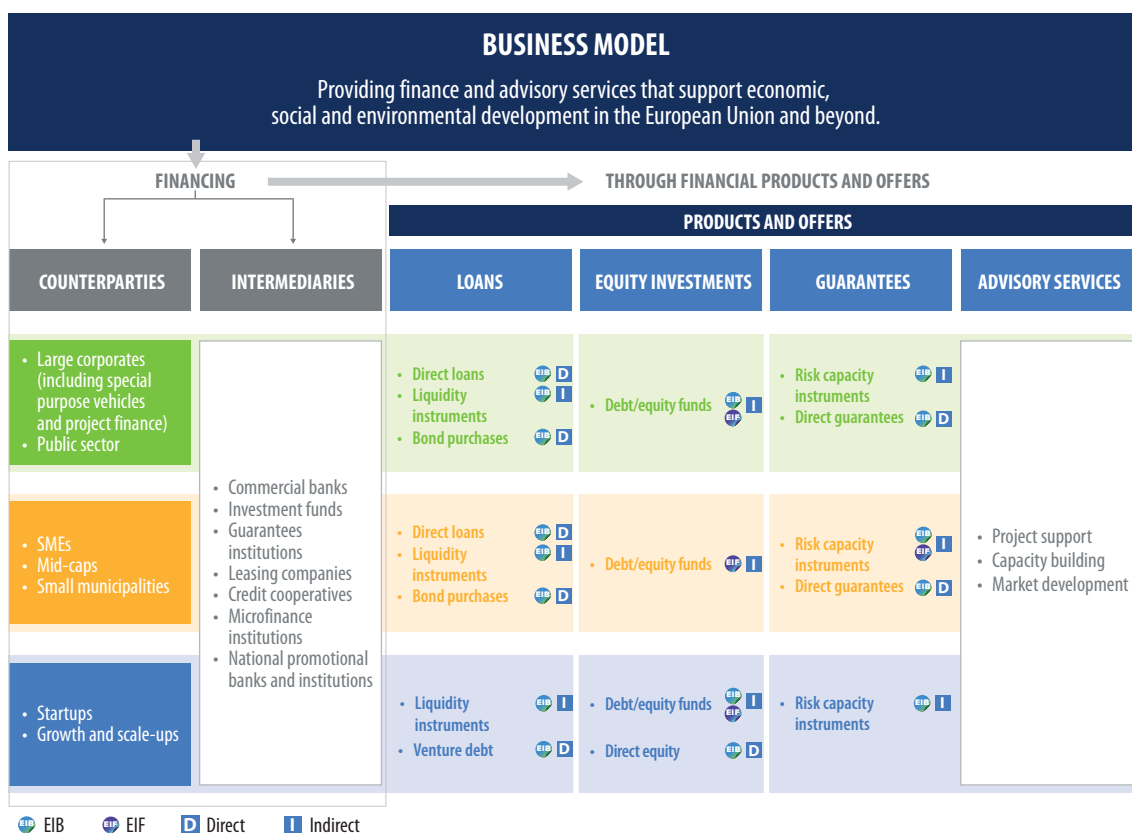
The EIB Group supports the economic, social and environmental objectives of the European Union by providing a wide range of financial products and services.

The Bank focuses on long-term financing for projects in sustainable infrastructure, innovation and climate action. The EIF concentrates primarily on venture capital and private equity, investing in EU funds to support startups, high-growth companies and sustainable infrastructure. It also provides guarantees, securitisation and microfinance support, helping financial intermediaries increase lending to small businesses and entrepreneurs by reducing the associated risks. By combining the strengths of these two institutions, the EIB Group effectively mobilises resources and expertise to foster sustainable development, innovation and economic growth across Europe and beyond.

The EIB Group’s finance and advisory solutions are designed to support investments and businesses throughout different stages of development, considering their financing needs while also helping to crowd in funding from other sources and maximise impact.

The illustration below presents an overview of the financial and advisory instruments provided by the EIB Group. It is not exhaustive, and does not include all products and/or markets in which the EIB Group is, or has been, active. For more detailed information, see the [EIB Group product catalogue](#).

FIGURE 3: EIB GROUP CORE BUSINESS MODEL AND ACTIVITIES



Source: EIB Group

1.2.4. Clients

As indicated in Figure 2 in Chapter 1.2.2, “Value Chain,” the products and services of the EIB Group target the following customer segments and sub-segments.

1.2.4.1. Private businesses

Small and medium-sized enterprises

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are businesses with fewer than 250 employees and an annual turnover not exceeding €50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43 million.

Mid-caps

Mid-caps are businesses with 250 to 3 000 employees.

Most lending facilities for SMEs and mid-caps have a low volume, so the Bank relies primarily on intermediated lending through local financial institutions: commercial banks, leasing companies, credit cooperatives, etc.

Large corporates

Large corporates are companies with more than 3 000 employees. They are major players in the economy, often operating on a global scale. Large corporates have substantial financial needs and are involved in large-scale projects that can drive significant economic and social impact.

Financial intermediaries

Financial intermediaries are counterparties like commercial banks, guarantee institutions, leasing companies or private equity funds, which lend money onwards to the final recipients, provide guarantees or invest funds in the final beneficiaries, acting as an interface between them and the Bank or the EIF.

1.2.4.2. Public sector

Central governments of EU members

Central governments are the national authorities of EU Member States. They are responsible for implementing national policies, managing public finances and driving economic development. Central governments often commission large-scale infrastructure and development projects.

Regional and public authorities

Regional and public authorities include regional governments, municipal governments and other public entities at the regional level. They are responsible for regional development, public services and infrastructure projects that serve local needs.

Public-sector entities

Public-sector entities encompass a wide range of organisations, including state-owned enterprises, public utilities and other government-related institutions. These entities provide essential services like energy, water, transportation and healthcare, contributing to public welfare and economic stability.

1.2.5. Geographical markets

The Bank serves two primary geographical markets: the European Union, and countries beyond the European Union (handled by EIB Global). The EIF primarily operates within the European Union.



The EIB Group works closely with other EU institutions to foster European integration, promote the European Union's development and support EU policies in over 160 countries around the world.

For more information, see the [European Investment Bank Group Activity Report 2024](#) and the Executive Summary of this report.

1.2.6. Financing

In 2024, the Bank raised €63.4 billion by issuing bonds (almost 30% of which came from green and sustainability bonds) across 13 currencies.⁶ While the focus was on the euro and US dollar, the Bank also issued bonds in other currencies, such as the Australian dollar, Swiss franc, Egyptian pound, pound sterling, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Mexican peso, Norwegian krone, Polish zloty, Swedish krona and South African rand, to diversify its funding sources.

Investors for these issuances are predominantly European (around two-thirds of the total investment volume). The remaining third are investors from Asia, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa – highlighting the Bank's global appeal.

As a leader in capital markets innovation, the Bank is at the forefront of sustainable finance and digital transformation. In 2024, the Bank issued €18.3 billion of Climate Awareness Bonds and Sustainability Awareness Bonds – 29% of the total funding programme. For more information on Climate Awareness Bonds and Sustainability Awareness Bonds, see Chapter 1.4.3. "Sustainability funding."

The Bank's latest pioneering efforts include the issuance of several digital bonds. In 2024, it reinforced its leadership in digital innovation by participating in the Eurosystem's [exploratory work with new technologies for wholesale central bank money settlement](#).

The EIF finances its activities primarily through mandates from the Bank, the European Commission and national partners, enabling it to support small businesses and innovation across Europe. Unlike a bank, the EIF does not issue bonds. Instead, it leverages shareholder capital, generates returns on investments and uses financial instruments like securitisation and risk-sharing mechanisms to multiply the impact of its funding. This blended finance approach ensures sustainable, long-term support for Europe's entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems.

6. For more details, please refer to the [European Investment Bank Group Activity Report 2024](#).

1.3. THE EIB GROUP'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

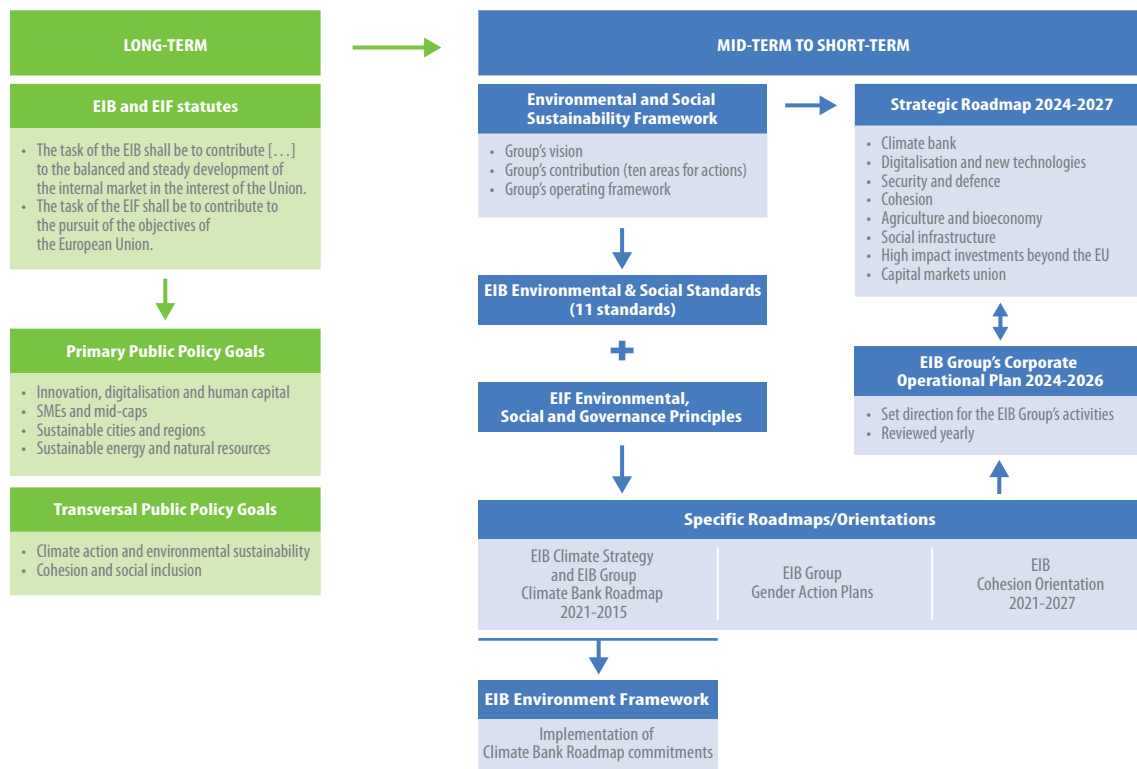
The EIB Group's approach to the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability is based on the key objectives and principles set out in the relevant EU policies and legal framework, as well as on the international community's response to the global sustainable development challenges as laid out in the relevant international treaties, conventions and other instruments ratified by the European Union.

1.3.1. Overview

The EIB Group is a policy driven, not profit maximising financial institution. To fulfil its mission, the Group relies on a sustainability framework that articulates:

- its long term objectives, as set in its **Statute** and operationalised through pursuit of its public policy goals (see Chapter 1.3.2, "Achieving public policy goals");
- its medium- to short-term policy frameworks, roadmaps and **Operational Plan**.

FIGURE 4: KEY DRIVERS OF EIB GROUP ACTIVITIES



Source: EIB Group

Note: In addition to the elements listed in above, there are also sectoral policies and orientations that include other specific sustainability matters, such as road safety in transport.

The EIB Group also contributes to the policy dialogue at different levels (international to local), when relevant and consistent with the Bank's and EIF's respective roles and business models. In line with EU policy objectives, the EIB Group seeks to develop and strengthen partnerships with other relevant actors (including international financial institutions, EU institutions and bodies, national and local governments, civil society and the private sector).

1.3.2. Achieving public policy goals

The EIB Group’s public policy goals reflect its financing priorities, which were introduced as part of its first corporate operational plan in 2000 and updated in 2021. They are rooted in the requirement to ensure the EIB Group’s long-term sustainable objectives align with the political priorities set by the European Union.

Through the public policy goals, the EIB Group allocates a balanced mix of financing across different policy areas. The goals are also used to set out a clear framework for communication about, and reporting on, EIB Group financing within the broader operational planning framework and in line with its impact objectives.

Based on the European Union’s policy priorities defined in the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, the EIB Group’s role as the climate bank and its ongoing contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Bank and the EIF have developed coherent public policy goal frameworks (Figure 5). These frameworks encapsulate the EIB Group’s core priorities and ensure that its activities support EU and related global objectives.

FIGURE 5: EIB AND EIF PUBLIC POLICY GOALS



Source: EIB Group

The Bank and the EIF each have four primary public policy goals that are specific to their institution. These are used to determine eligibility for EIB Group financing. Some investments also respond to the cross-cutting objectives. There is a mapping from EIF Public Policy Goals to the Bank’s Public Policy Goals to consolidate activities on the group level.

1.3.2.1. The primary public policy goals

EIB public policy goals framework

The Bank provides economic support to sectors that contribute significantly to growth, employment, cohesion and environmental sustainability. The activities focus on four areas:⁷

1. Sustainable cities and regions

The Bank supports projects that make urban areas more liveable and sustainable and that provide rural communities with equal access to essential infrastructure. The EIB Group provides financing for integrated urban development, regeneration and renewal, as well as water and waste management services, low-carbon mobility, education and healthcare.

✔ *In 2024, the EIB Group signed loans worth €17.2 billion⁸ to support its sustainable cities and regions policy goal, compared with €21.3 billion in 2023. Among other things, operations signed over the same year will help provide safer drinking water to a total overall population of almost 13.7 million people.⁹*

2. Sustainable energy and natural resources

To help the European Union meet its climate and energy targets, the Bank provides support for clean energy, electric grid expansion, electrification across sectors, low-emissions technologies and renewable heating, such as biomass and geothermal facilities. The Bank also invests in projects that protect natural resources and biodiversity, particularly in agriculture, forestry, oceans, water and waste management.

✔ *In 2024, the EIB Group signed €35.6 billion¹⁰ of investment supporting its policy goal of sustainable energy and natural resources, compared with €26.8 billion in 2023. Among other things, operations signed in 2024 would help power by renewable energy over 14.6 million households and help construct or upgrade almost 107 370 km of power lines.*

3. Innovation, digital and human capital

The Bank is committed to the digital and low-carbon transformation of the EU economy, and to circular and environmentally friendly economic practices. It supports the development of cutting-edge technologies, fostering EU competitiveness. This helps small businesses and mid-caps invest more in digital infrastructure, and accelerates the development of digital technologies that are essential for the green transition.

✔ *In 2024, we supported innovation, digital and human capital with €19.8 billion¹¹ of EIB Group financing, compared with €19.8 billion in 2023. Among other things, this is expected to provide 5G telecommunication services to more than 850 000 people.*

4. Small business and mid-cap finance

Small and medium businesses play a key role in the global economy by creating jobs and driving innovation. The Bank helps small businesses and mid-caps access financing through a wide range of intermediated products. In simple terms, “intermediated” means that the Bank gives financing to commercial banks, microfinance institutions and investment vehicles, which then use this funding to

7. To calculate how much the EIB Group invests annually to support its primary public policy goals (as presented in the audited claims in this section), the Group maps the EIF's contribution to its own specific primary public policy goals against the Group's primary public policy goals, which are aligned with the ones of the EIB.

8. Of this amount, €700 million is attributed to the EIF contribution for this specific EIB public policy goal. The total of €17.2 billion takes into account overlap between EIB and EIF investments.

9. With 2.5 million of those benefiting directly from the operations signed in 2024.

10. Of this amount, €6.3 billion is attributed to the EIF contribution for this specific EIB public policy goal. The total of €35.6 billion takes into account overlap between EIB and EIF investments.

11. Of this amount, €3.2 billion is attributed to the EIF contribution for this specific EIB public policy goal. The total of €19.8 billion takes into account overlap between EIB and EIF investments.

provide guarantees, loans and advisory services to a large range of businesses. The Bank also has a long track record of supporting microfinance with a focus on women, young people and rural and poor communities. Microfinance provides small amounts of funding to low-income individuals and small companies that usually have no other means of financial support.

✓ *In 2024, the EIB Group provided €16.2 billion¹² in financing for micro, small, medium and mid-cap firms, compared with €20.0 billion in 2023.*

EIF public policy goals framework

The EIF supports EU priorities by improving access to finance, predominantly for small and medium-sized firms and infrastructure projects. The EIF shares risks to encourage lending by banks, to crowd investments into private assets, and to help new market players get off the ground. The EIF is guided by the four public policy goals listed below, as well as the two EIB Group cross-cutting objectives of climate action and environmental sustainability, and economic and social cohesion.

1. Competitiveness and growth

The EIF's core objective under the competitiveness and growth public policy goal is improving financing for small and medium-sized businesses and helping investments in four key areas: business growth, internationalisation and value chains, territorial development and building financial ecosystems.

In 2024, the EIF signed €3.3 billion of investment with financial intermediaries to support competitiveness and growth.

2. Innovation

Highly innovative projects and companies often require solid financing to cover the inherent risk of research, development and innovation. One of the roles of the EIF is to support these types of projects and companies to foster innovation and the development and uptake of new technologies. Under the innovation public policy goal (a growing field for the EIF), the Fund focuses on life sciences and health, disruptive technologies, digital transformation and new products, services and business model development, and commercialisation.

The EIF committed €3.1 billion in support of enabling sectors and industries of key strategic importance for Europe's future, autonomy and technological sovereignty.

3. Social impact, skills and human capital

Supporting projects and entrepreneurs aiming at bringing social value is another key goal of the EIF. This objective encompasses inclusion, diversity and well-being, social innovation, and skills, education, culture and creativity. By focusing on these areas, the EIF seeks to foster a more equitable and inclusive society.

In 2024, EIF funding in social impact, skills and human capital totalled €888 million.

4. Sustainability and green transformation

The transition to an inclusive, resource-efficient, zero-pollution economy that protects and restores biodiversity is a key EU policy objective. It includes activities promoting sustainable industries, products, services and infrastructure, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable transport and sustainable food and environmental services, as well as **circular** and **nature-based solutions**.

In 2024 the EIF focused on sustainability, and the green transformation has taken centre stage, with total commitments of €7.1 billion.

12. Of this amount, €4 billion is attributed to the EIF contribution for this specific EIB public policy goal. The total of €16.2 billion takes into account overlap between EIB and EIF investments.

1.3.2.2. The cross-cutting public policy goals

The EIB Group's public policy goals ensure EIB Group activities align with the EU priorities. While the primary public policy goals are used to gauge an investment's eligibility for EIB Group financing, the two cross-cutting public policy goals serve a different function. They help the EIB Group target two key challenges: climate and environmental sustainability, and economic and social cohesion.

These two cross-cutting public policy goals help steer the EIB Group's investment practices and identify and monitor investments, in alignment with two complementary strategic operational frameworks, described below: the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) and the [European Investment Bank Cohesion Orientation 2021-2027](#).

1.3.3. Delivering on the strategic roadmap

Building on the EIB Group's strengths and maximising the impact of its work, the [EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap](#) focuses on eight interlinked policy priorities, endorsed by the [Board of Governors](#) in June 2024.

1.3.3.1. Priorities set by the EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap

The eight priorities set by the [EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap](#) reflect the European Union's political priorities and the important role that the Group plays in closing Europe's investment gaps and strengthening Europe's competitiveness. They form a basis for increasing the focus on certain existing programmes and new programmes that will be introduced.

They aim to accelerate the green transition, boost technological innovation, bolster security and defence, and support regional cohesion and social infrastructure development. Commitments to international development and to capital markets integration safeguard Europe's strong global presence. These priorities support growth, prosperity, and technological and social progress in individual EU members, across the European Union as a whole and around the world.



TABLE 12: EIB GROUP PRIORITIES

<p>1. Consolidating the EIB Group's role as the climate bank</p>	<p>Financing the green transition and supporting climate action is the No. 1 priority of our time to ensure Europe's sustainable growth, technological competitiveness, strategic autonomy and security.</p> <p>Under the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025,¹³ the Group's investments will continue to focus on renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects – especially in support of REPowerEU+. These efforts will help decarbonise the energy supply and increase Europe's energy security.</p> <p>A new pilot programme will be launched for energy efficiency of small and medium firms. It will scale up existing technologies generating material energy efficiency savings, leading to profits and productivity gains throughout the entrepreneurial landscape.</p> <p>The water programme will concentrate and reinforce existing resources for investing in infrastructure and efficient water management technologies to deal with climate mitigation and adaptation to floods, drought and rising sea levels.</p>
<p>2. Digitalisation and new technologies</p>	<p>The EIB Group is accelerating the development and adoption of breakthrough technologies, establishing world-class digital infrastructure, and supporting promising innovative startups and small firms.</p> <p>The new TechEU programme will bring the group's efforts under a single umbrella, with an emphasis on digitalisation, new innovative and strategic technologies, and critical raw materials. Through this flagship programme, the EIB Group will participate in the European Commission's industrial alliances and initiatives.</p> <p>The Group will also continue to respond to market demand by supporting projects related to critical raw materials, determining project eligibility in line with EU policies. The focus will be on critical raw materials for the green and digital transitions, the broader value chain, innovation and sustainability, and strategic autonomy. The EIB Group will prioritise projects that consider environmental, social and governance factors, and show strong project management capacity.</p>
<p>3. Supporting Europe's security and defence industry</p>	<p>Under the EIB Group Action Plan for security and defence, endorsed by the EIB Board of Directors in May 2024, the group is accelerating deployment of the financing available through the Strategic European Security Initiative via the one-stop-shop for security and defence.</p> <p>This is being done while safeguarding the Bank's financing capacity, following intensive engagement with key stakeholders and financial markets and ensuring the highest environmental, social and governance standards. The action plan will be promoted on the ground in EU countries.</p>
<p>4. Contributing to a modern cohesion policy</p>	<p>Cohesion lending will prioritise physical and digital connectivity, energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment (especially in high-potential less developed and transition regions), education and training to develop necessary skills for EU industries, and investment in affordable and sustainable housing. This includes EU-wide support for large-scale cross-border infrastructure projects (particularly in Eastern Europe) to enhance connectivity and regional development via railway infrastructure, electricity grids and the core Trans-European Transport Network.</p> <p>The EIB Group will continue to support the Just Transition Mechanism, aim to increase administrative capacity in regions through tailored advisory services and help make regions better prepared to manage natural disasters due to climate change. We will focus on projects that address regional disparities, stimulate growth, support green and digital transitions and foster resilience. This includes collaborating with less-developed regions to bridge economic disparities and ensure equitable access to infrastructure and public services.</p>
<p>5. Supporting agriculture and the bioeconomy</p>	<p>The EIB Group will focus financial support on developing solutions to promote economic growth (particularly in rural areas), social inclusion and environmental sustainability, and to fight climate change. Significant investments are required to bolster resilience, transition to a more efficient and sustainable value chain and develop the bioeconomy value chain, with an emphasis on the green transition and circular economy. The EIB Group will provide various financial products to support the agricultural sector, tailored to different needs. The EIF will continue to support agriculture through portfolio guarantees and equity investments in the agrifood and foodtech sectors, attracting private investors. The EIB Group will amplify its impact by combining financing with EU and national funds, such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development or InvestEU, and by developing new financial products in collaboration with stakeholders.</p>

13. The EIB Group published [Phase 2 of the Climate Bank Roadmap](#) in October 2025, which covers 2026-2030.

<p>6. Reinforcing Europe's social infrastructure</p>	<p>Investing in education, health and affordable and sustainable housing is crucial for economic growth and well-being. Social infrastructure supports inclusive growth and strengthens Europe's social foundation. The EIB Group will increase investments in education at all levels, and in training to improve and update people's skills to meet the demands of new technologies and economic activities. This includes improving access to quality equitable and inclusive education and adult learning.</p> <p>In health, the EIB Group will continue to invest across all regions, aiming to enhance the European social model and advance towards a more complete European Health Union. This includes ensuring that everyone has access to quality healthcare, reducing inequalities, addressing the health workforce gap and supporting long-term care – but also accelerating digitalisation in healthcare, promoting vaccination and strengthening EU competitiveness in critical health sectors, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biotech.</p> <p>For decades, the EIB Group has supported investments in housing through financing and advisory services, focusing on social, affordable and energy-efficient renovation projects. As the housing problem has moved to the top of the European Union's agenda, the EIB Group has made supporting affordable and sustainable housing one of its top objectives.</p>
<p>7. High-impact investments beyond the European Union</p>	<p>Globally, the EIB Group aims to improve the impact of its activities in line with EU priorities by leveraging its strong role within the network of multilateral development banks, its excellent financing and technical capabilities and its close alignment with EU policies and standards.</p> <p>The Bank will focus its activities on Ukraine and a successful enlargement process, as well as impact-driven interventions in Europe's neighbourhoods. Globally, we will support projects promoted by the EU Global Gateway initiative, with a focus on building and strengthening strategic geopolitical partnerships.</p> <p>Operating in a fragile and fragmented geopolitical environment, and facing debt sustainability challenges in several partner countries, EIB Global will continue to rely on a mix of EU mandates and third-party funds to de-risk its portfolio, along with a strategic deployment of its own funds. The overall objective is to support the external dimension of EU policies, in line with the EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap and the European Union's Global Gateway agenda.</p>
<p>8. Pioneering the capital markets union</p>	<p>The EIB Group is well positioned to advance the savings and investments union, in close partnership with the European Commission. It is already a union instrument, issuing financial instruments under EU signature and channelling savings towards productive, pan-European investments and projects of common interest. The Group has progressively expanded its product offering to cover the entire business innovation cycle.</p>

1.3.3.2. The EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025

In line with the political ambition behind the European Green Deal, the Bank's and EIF's boards of directors raised the EIB Group's ambition for climate action and environmental sustainability by introducing new targets at the end of 2019. To implement these commitments, the EIB Group published the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#),¹⁴ through which the Group assumed the role of the climate bank.

Alongside the Climate Bank Roadmap, the revised [EIB Climate Strategy](#)¹⁵ guides the Bank's medium- to long-term climate actions, focusing on three strategic areas:

- reinforcing the impact of the Bank's climate financing;
- building resilience to climate change;
- further integrating climate change considerations across all the Bank's standards, methods and processes.

14. The EIB Group published [Phase 2 of the Climate Bank Roadmap](#) in October 2025, covering 2026-2030.

15. The EIB Climate Strategy has been integrated in the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap Phase 2, which will enter into force in 2026.

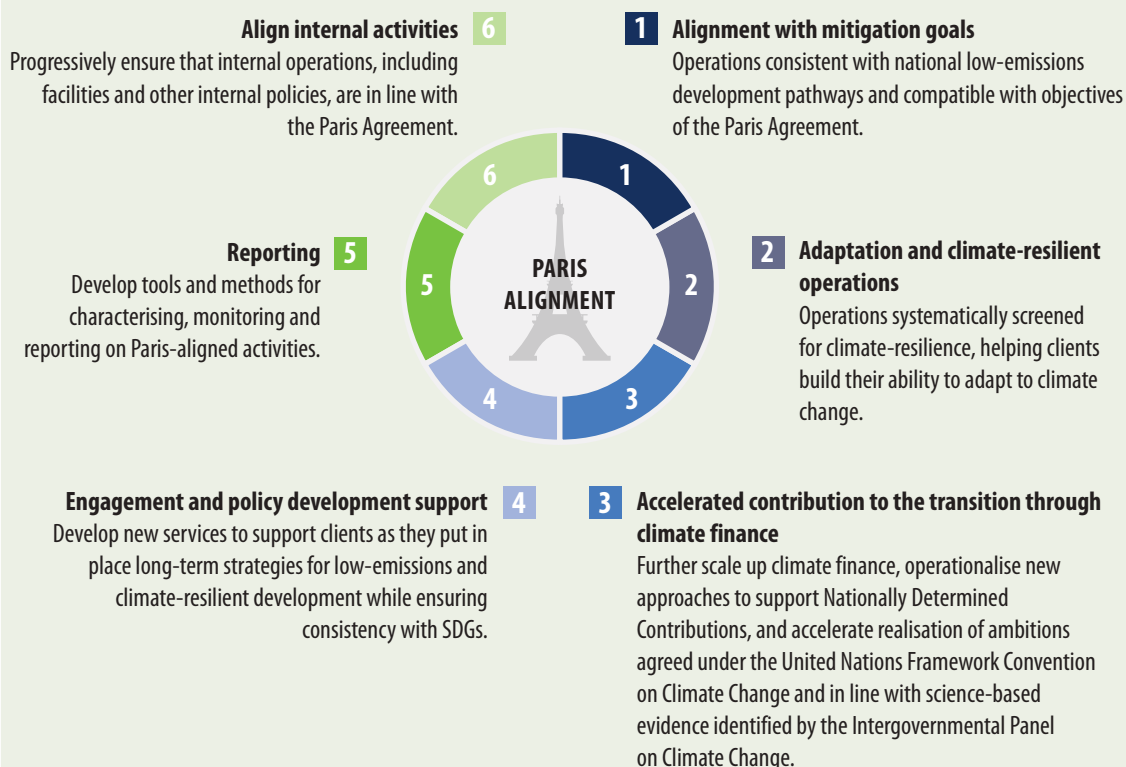
The Climate Bank Roadmap is anchored in the [multilateral development banks' joint methodological principles for assessing alignment with the Paris Agreement](#), as well as on EU policy and regulation (such as the EU taxonomy) – often going beyond the standards common to multilateral development banks.

The multilateral development bank Paris Alignment framework

The framework comprises six building blocks (Figure 6), each enabling targeted alignment strategies. It takes a holistic view, extending beyond financing to encompass all facets of multilateral development banks' operations, recognising their role in shaping standards and good practices.



FIGURE 6: BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE PARIS ALIGNMENT FRAMEWORK



Source: TCFD Report 2023

The [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) is structured around four key themes:

- **Accelerating transition through green finance:** increasing green investment and supporting green innovation, low-emission and climate-resilient business models (including through the development of an EIB Adaptation Plan) to support the achievement of the following targets:
 - Gradually increase the share of the Bank's annual financing for climate action and environmental sustainability to at least 50% by 2025 and beyond.
 - Support €1 trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability between 2021 and 2030 at the EIB Group level.
- **Ensuring a just transition for all:** supporting communities exposed to structural change or climate risks; integrating social issues and addressing inequalities.
- **Supporting Paris-aligned operations:** seeking to ensure that new EIB Group operations meet the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement, together with addressing broad climate-related risk management.
- **Building strategic coherence and accountability:** embedding these elements within a coherent and integrated sustainability policy approach, supported by internal systems and accountability, and human resource management.

Building on the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap, [The EIB Environment Framework](#) focuses on environmental sustainability and describes how the Bank intends to implement its commitment, alongside other multilateral development banks, to step up efforts for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of nature. It consolidates the EIB Group's efforts and activities for achieving environmental sustainability and for responding to the emerging needs of its clients.

1.3.3.3. Building on the EIB Cohesion Orientation 2021-2027

Cohesion policy, unique to the European integration process, is designed to help each region achieve its full potential and to allow for the convergence of living standards and prosperity across the European Union. Cohesion was one of the original reasons the Bank was created in 1958, and remains one of its priorities: Promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union is central to the EIB Group's mission as a cross-cutting public policy goal.

The Bank's cohesion priorities encompass less developed regions (with gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of less than 75% of the EU average) and transition regions (with GDP per capita between 75% and 100% of the EU average), as defined by the EU Cohesion Fund's eligibility policy map.

The Bank committed almost €34 billion of its own resources to economic and social cohesion and to convergence projects in 2024 (€30 billion in 2023).

✓ In 2024, the Bank dedicated more than 49% of its own resources to economic and social cohesion and to convergence projects, in EU Member States, compared with 45.8% in 2023.

At the same time, around 44% of the EIF's 2024 activity in the European Union supported partners in cohesion regions. By committing about €5.5 billion, the EIF made more than €21 billion available for EU businesses where it was needed most.

In October 2020, the [Evaluation of EIB cohesion financing \(2007-2018\): Synthesis of project evaluations](#), conducted by the Bank's Evaluation Division, found that the Bank's cohesion financing supports operations that are relevant to cohesion regions' needs, although recommendations were also made to improve Bank action in this area.

The main recommendation was to draft an orientation paper stating how the Bank's cohesion financing aims to contribute to economic growth in less developed regions and help reduce disparities in the European Union.

The [European Investment Bank Cohesion Orientation 2021-2027](#), which came into force in 2022, addresses this particular recommendation. It sets out the way forward for cohesion, and has seven pillars that also touch upon EIF activities.

- i. Increase the target of 40% of total lending by EU Member States in cohesion regions, aiming to reach 45% of total lending by 2025, using reasonable endeavours. While this will not constitute a key performance indicator (KPI), it will be closely monitored and reported on each year.
- ii. Increase the KPI of lending by the 27 EU countries for less developed regions from 20% to 23% of total signatures by 2025. As in the last multiannual financial framework, the Bank's lending should thus at least equal the share of GDP of the transition regions.
In 2024, the Bank's lending to less developed regions was equivalent to 22% of total lending to the European Union, achieving the KPI set for that year (22%).
- iii. Devote between 40% and 42% of EIF financing to cohesion regions in 2025, based on the [EIF Operational Plan 2024-2026](#).
- iv. Focus support on cohesion priority regions in their climate and environmental transitions, to significantly increase the share of climate action and environmental lending across transition and less developed regions.
- v. For the first time, directly finance work by mid-caps in less developed regions to deploy proven technologies (for projects that are not justified by a public policy goal other than that of small businesses and mid-caps in cohesion regions) that show clear spillover economic impact at the local level.
- vi. Increase funding devoted to improving access to finance for mid-caps through direct lending under the public policy goal of small firms and mid-caps in cohesion regions, with a focus on less developed regions.
- vii. Offer more and better targeted advisory support to respond to the challenges outlined above, especially in light of the unprecedented amount of EU grant funding being made available to cohesion regions. This should help to channel these funds into sustainable and future-oriented investment and to optimise how they can be combined with other resources.

In 2024, over €38 billion, or 48% of total EIB Group financing in the European Union, went to cohesion regions. More support for high-impact projects is critical for reducing regional socioeconomic disparities and promoting a vibrant economy across the European Union.

In the context of the EU [Cohesion Policy](#), the [Just Transition Mechanism](#) provides financial support (EU grants, [InvestEU guarantees](#) and [blended EIB/EU finance](#)) to target the EU regions most affected by challenges posed by the transition to a carbon-neutral EU economy by 2050. The EIB Group supports all three pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism.

The EIB Group's approach to supporting the Just Transition Mechanism was approved by the Board in December 2021 and reviewed and confirmed in July 2024. Implementation is running smoothly, and is reported on in the annual Climate Bank Roadmap progress reports.

There is very strong alignment between EIB group cohesion lending and the Bank's support for a just transition. 73% of the 155 [NUTS 3 regions](#) eligible under just transition are located in the Bank's cohesion regions. This alignment is also present in the methods for selecting investment areas (cohesion lending and just transition lending focus on economic and social development) and sectors (both call for a broad-based, multisector approach to smart specialisation and green transition), and for policy implementation, with the [Just Transition Fund](#) being one of the EU Cohesion Policy funds under shared EU and national management.

1.3.4. Selection process for financing

The EIB Group is policy-driven. To qualify for financing, an operation must meet one of its primary public policy goals, not constitute an excluded activity, and provide for additionality (for more information on this concept, see Chapter 1.4.1, “Additionality and the Additionality and Impact Measurement framework”). Operations are screened for eligibility in three complementary steps: excluding incompatible activities or sectors; performing environment, climate and social due diligence; and economic appraisal.

1.3.4.1. Excluding incompatible activities or sectors

The Bank has exclusions in place for certain activities or sectors that are incompatible with the ethical, environmental or social principles of its public policy goals.

The [EIB eligibility, excluded activities and excluded sectors list](#) defines the types of activities that the Bank does not finance:

- a. projects which result in limiting people’s individual rights and freedom, or violate human rights;
- b. projects unacceptable in climate and environmental terms;
- c. ethically or morally controversial projects;
- d. projects with political or religious purpose;
- e. ammunition and weapons, including explosives and sporting weapons, as well as equipment or infrastructure dedicated to military/police use.¹⁶

In addition, the [EIB Group Paris Alignment framework – Low carbon: Version 1.1](#) lists which activities the EIB Group does and does not support in the context of alignment with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

The Bank also applies sector-specific policies to ensure that its investments contribute to the green transition. With respect to the energy sector, the Bank took a big step forward in 2019 with its [EIB energy lending policy: Supporting the energy transformation](#), which effectively ended new financing for unabated fossil fuel energy projects. Similarly, in 2022 the Bank approved the [Transport Lending Policy 2022: The Way Forward](#) for a safe, secure, accessible, green and efficient mobility system. In May 2023, the Bank’s Board of Directors approved the [Mid-term review of the EIB Energy Lending Policy](#), which confirms that the policy’s objectives remain valid in the current energy crisis. As part of the review, the Bank revised the energy lending policy’s technical Annex II. This decision reflects the adoption of the taxonomy [Climate Delegated Act](#) and further clarifies the lending criteria, two years after the policy was first implemented.

The EIF applies financing exclusions and restrictions to certain sectors and activities (see the [EIF Policy on Exclusions and Restrictions](#)). These apply to activities that are considered incompatible with the ethical, environmental or social principles of the EIF’s public mission and/or that do not comply with the European Union’s or EIB Group’s policies, such as the low-carbon framework created under the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#).

Beyond EIF policies and procedures, mandates implemented by the EIF and backed by EU budgetary resources may require additional eligibility assessments. For example, all EIF-backed transactions [under InvestEU](#) must also comply with the exclusions listed in the [InvestEU Regulation](#), and with the [sustainability proofing requirements established by the European Commission](#).

16. Investments within the European Union with the potential to be used for both civil and military/police purposes (dual use) are not excluded.

1.3.4.2. The EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework

The EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework includes an overarching EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy, which is complemented for the Bank by 11 Environmental and Social Standards. For the EIF, it is complemented by the EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles.

The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy

The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy aligns EIB Group operations with global sustainability goals and EU policies, seeking to ensure that projects and investments contribute positively to the environment and society. It covers the EIB Group's vision, contribution and operating framework.

It also outlines the framework for implementing the policy at the Bank, with guiding principles for due diligence and monitoring, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the Bank and project promoters.

Promoters, whether public or private, are responsible for ensuring that Bank-financed projects are designed, implemented, managed, monitored and reported on in accordance with the relevant legal requirements and the policy requirements, which are reflected in the legal documentation signed with the Bank.

The Bank requires promoters to provide for a holistic and proactive approach to the assessment and management of project impacts and risks. They must ensure that environmental, climate and social considerations are integrated into the decision-making process. They must also ensure that the mitigation hierarchy¹⁷ is applied to all impacts and risks identified, where relevant. A meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement process is an integral part of this approach. The Bank requires promoters to ensure that there is no prejudice towards, or discrimination against, project-affected individuals or communities.

The EIB Environmental and Social Standards

The Bank's Environmental and Social Standards define the requirements that the Bank's promoters (i.e., the Bank's counterpart implementing a project) must meet when assessing and managing environmental, climate and social impacts and risks in Bank-financed projects. The standards also ask counterparties to identify opportunities to support and promote sustainability objectives.

EIB Environmental and Social Standards:

- 1. Environmental and social impacts and risks*
- 2. Stakeholder engagement*
- 3. Resource efficiency and pollution prevention*
- 4. Biodiversity and ecosystems*
- 5. Climate change*
- 6. Involuntary resettlement*
- 7. Vulnerable groups and indigenous people and gender*
- 8. Labour rights*
- 9. Health, safety and security*
- 10. Cultural heritage*
- 11. Intermediated finance*

17. See footnote 32 of The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy.

The EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles

The EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles describe the Fund's key policies and processes with respect to environmental, social, governance and climate matters, including public policy goals and restricted sectors and activities. These principles guide all of the EIF's intermediated lending business. For infrastructure equity fund operations, at the transaction level, the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) also apply, and the EIF cooperates with Bank services to perform due diligence and monitoring.

Third-party standards and initiatives linked to the EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework

The EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework, as set out in the [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#), is linked to the following third-party standards or initiatives:

- the United Nations' [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change and the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#);
- the EU [Environment Action Programme](#);
- relevant EU social policies and the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#);
- EU strategies and policies around cultural heritage;
- the [Global Strategy for the EU](#) and the [European Consensus on Development](#);
- principles of EU environmental law: the [precautionary principle](#), the [prevention principle](#), the principle of [rectification of damage at source](#), the [polluter pays principle](#) out of [Art. 191\(2\) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), and the broader integration and sustainable development principles enshrined in [Art. 11](#) of that treaty;
- the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#), the fundamental rights and freedoms in the [European Convention on Human Rights](#), and the principles in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the [EU global human rights sanctions regime](#);
- the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#);
- the [ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples](#);
- the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#);
- Minimum Social Safeguards as defined in the EU [Taxonomy Regulation](#) (which refers to the [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct](#) and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the eight [fundamental instruments](#) of the International Labour Organization, and the [International Bill of Human Rights](#)).

1.3.4.3. Environmental, climate and social due diligence and monitoring

At the Bank

To strengthen environmental and social sustainability, each Bank-financed project is subject to environmental, climate and social due diligence and monitoring.

Projects undergo a pre-appraisal and appraisal as part of the decision process on financing. If the project is approved for financing, appraisal results influence how the project's impacts and risks will be managed and monitored throughout the project cycle, and how its positive effects will be maximised.¹⁸

The real scope of due diligence and monitoring for a given project is proportionate to its nature and scale, and the likely significance of its impact and risks. For example, pre-appraisal may take into account country and contextual risks from the external operating environment, and the promoter's ability and willingness to implement the project in line with [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#). The Bank thus adopts a context-specific, risk-based approach that identifies the appropriate level of due diligence and suitable mitigation measures.¹⁹

The promoter is responsible for providing adequate information so that the Bank may carry out its due diligence and monitoring in accordance with the policy.

The Bank summarises the results of its due diligence at the appraisal stage in the project's environmental and social data sheet, published on the Bank's website. Once the project is complete, the Bank publishes an environmental and social completion sheet for it, summarising the Bank's assessment of the environmental and social issues at completion stage. Stakeholders can request additional information from the Bank at any point in a project's life cycle.²⁰

Focus on human rights

The Bank's approach to environment, climate and social due diligence and monitoring is cohesive and human rights-based. Impact and risks are screened and assessed against the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), which in turn are grounded in human rights principles. Guided by the projected likelihood, frequency and severity of human rights impacts, this process is the basis for selecting and prioritising mitigation measures.

As outlined in [The European Investment Bank's approach to human rights – Information note](#), during the appraisal phase, the Bank considers findings from impact assessments by the promoter and any independent studies the Bank may have commissioned. On this basis, it may select prevention, mitigation and/or remediation measures. Obligations to act, report and monitor are set out in action plans and the finance contract, as relevant.²¹ Based on the assessed impact, the context and the promoter's capacity, the Bank may support the promoter in implementing mitigation measures.²²

During the monitoring phase, the Bank reviews the monitoring reports, taking a risk-based approach. As relevant, it performs monitoring missions and analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of the action plans in place to prevent and mitigate risk and impact. If human rights infringements occur, the Bank's main course of action is to apply leverage and to support promoters as they work to address the impact and/or provide remedies.

18. For more information, see paragraphs 4.16 to 4.17 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

19. See paragraph 4.10 of the [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

20. See paragraph 5 of the [EIB Group Transparency Policy](#) and Chapter 1.5, "Stakeholder engagement and public consultations".

21. See paragraph 4.1.2 (Projects – Contract) of [The European Investment Bank's approach to human rights – information note](#).

22. See Annex C, step 3 of [The European Investment Bank's approach to human rights – information note](#).

At the EIF

The [EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles](#) describe the Fund's key policies and processes with respect to environment (including climate), social and governance matters, and guide the EIF's business across all products.

For infrastructure equity fund operations, at the transaction level, the European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards also apply, and the EIF cooperates with Bank services to perform due diligence and monitoring.

For all other intermediated finance operations, the EIF uses a specific environmental, social and governance (ESG) due diligence questionnaire, in addition to its normal appraisal and due diligence processes. The questionnaire evaluates: the financial intermediary's ESG risk profile, its ESG policy and practices, its governance structure, how ESG factors are integrated into its investment decisions, its stewardship role with regard to final beneficiaries of the financing (as applicable), its ESG reporting and disclosures, and the related internal monitoring and control framework it uses.

Following an initial appraisal (first line of defence), the EIF Sustainability, Risk and Compliance team (second line of defence) in the Risk Office assesses the responses to the ESG questionnaire. The due diligence process also includes an adverse media screening of counterparties to identify companies potentially associated with an ESG incident. The EIF Sustainability, Risk and Compliance team consolidates its assessment to produce a non-financial risk independent opinion, which shapes the final investment decision.

In relation to monitoring, operational agreements with financial intermediaries include:

- obligations to comply with laws and regulations (covering all relevant national and EU social and environmental legislation);
- an obligation to apply the relevant requirements from the [EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles](#) to the underlying financing and, in particular, to adhere to sector and activity exclusions and restrictions;
- an obligation to report relevant sustainability information to the EIF regularly and comprehensively, such as key sustainability performance indicators and alignment with the EIF's [climate action and environmental sustainability criteria](#) and policy objectives.

The EIF regularly and systematically monitors ESG and climate risk, and financial intermediaries' compliance with their contractual obligations, in accordance with its standard monitoring procedures and best market practices. The standard contractual documentation signed with intermediaries must therefore include appropriate obligations to inform, as well as appropriate monitoring, control and audit rights for the EIF to verify that agreements are being implemented in compliance with the relevant contractual requirements under the [EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles](#) and other EIF policies.

The EIF also uses external tools and databases to further refine its due diligence and monitoring process. The information from these resources is used to further assess the ESG risk of each transaction. It therefore helps the EIF to assess and monitor individual transactions and to evaluate the ESG impact of the EIF's activities.

Beyond EIF policies and procedures, mandates implemented by the EIF and backed by EU budgetary resources may require additional eligibility assessments or have further criteria and reporting requirements. For example, all EIF-backed transactions [under InvestEU](#) must also comply with the exclusions listed in the InvestEU Regulation, and with the [sustainability proofing requirements established by the European Commission](#).

1.3.4.4. Economic appraisal

Markets do not fully integrate environmental and social costs (like carbon emissions or local air pollution) and benefits into product prices and investment decisions. The aim of the economic appraisal by the EIB Group is to assess whether the investment costs of a project are justified by its net benefits to society over its operating period. Including externalities is an essential part of this assessment, ensuring that only projects that contribute positively to society are considered for financing.

Beyond looking at possible financial gains for investors, economic appraisals also address the wider value to society a project generates. They include the benefits and costs for the project's final users, the taxpayer and third parties, allowing for all applicable market failures, such as environmental externalities.²³ For instance, greenhouse gas emissions are internalised using the shadow cost of carbon, a calculation of the cost of saving or emitting a tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent.²⁴

1.3.5. Sustainability risk management

Of the various areas of environmental risk, the EIB Group currently focuses primarily on climate risk. Apart from climate risk, the group has begun working to integrate biodiversity risk into its policies and procedures, and is working towards fully incorporating the wider environmental risks in its frameworks and procedures.

1.3.5.1. Risk identification and management

The EIB Group's climate risk identification and management practices collectively form a climate and environmental credit risk framework, built based on voluntary commitments in line with best banking practice. It includes the tools and procedures used across the EIB Group to identify climate and environmental risk, and the division of responsibilities (especially between the first and second lines of defence), with a particular focus on credit risk. It also contains provisions regarding climate risk data governance and reporting practices.

This climate and environmental credit risk framework works in conjunction with a standalone risk appetite framework and the risk identification document, which include climate and environmental risk indicators and assessments.

Chapter 3.3, "Climate change actions and implementing frameworks" provides more information about climate-related risk management at the EIB Group. For a detailed presentation of the group's approach to climate, environmental, social and governance risks, see section 13 of the [December 2024 European Investment Bank Group Risk Management Disclosure Report](#).

1.3.5.2. Resilience of our business model

The EIB Group monitors its own resilience to climate impact in several ways. In 2020, the group began to perform sensitivity analyses using the output of a proprietary climate risk screening tool. Although the EIB Group is not supervised by an external supervisory banking authority, it has a statutory duty to apply best banking practices. It therefore aims to comply with relevant banking regulatory requirements and meet the [supervisory expectations of the European Central Bank on climate-related and environmental risks](#).

23. For more information, see [The Economic Appraisal of Investment Projects at the EIB - 2nd Edition](#).

24. For more information, see Chapter 3, "Tackling climate change."

1.4. THE EIB GROUP'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABILITY

1.4.1. Additionality and the Additionality and Impact Measurement framework

As the European Union's bank, the European Investment Bank is charged with implementing public policy. It therefore verifies that all operations meet its requirements of additionality and impact, and are eligible for its support. Measuring these dimensions ensures that the Bank's participation strengthens each project from a public welfare perspective – notably by mitigating market failures.

The **Additionality and Impact Measurement framework** is used for the preliminary appraisal and pre-appraisal, and for the monitoring assessment of all the Bank's operations. The framework takes into account the differences between projects in the European Union and those beyond it. It has three pillars:

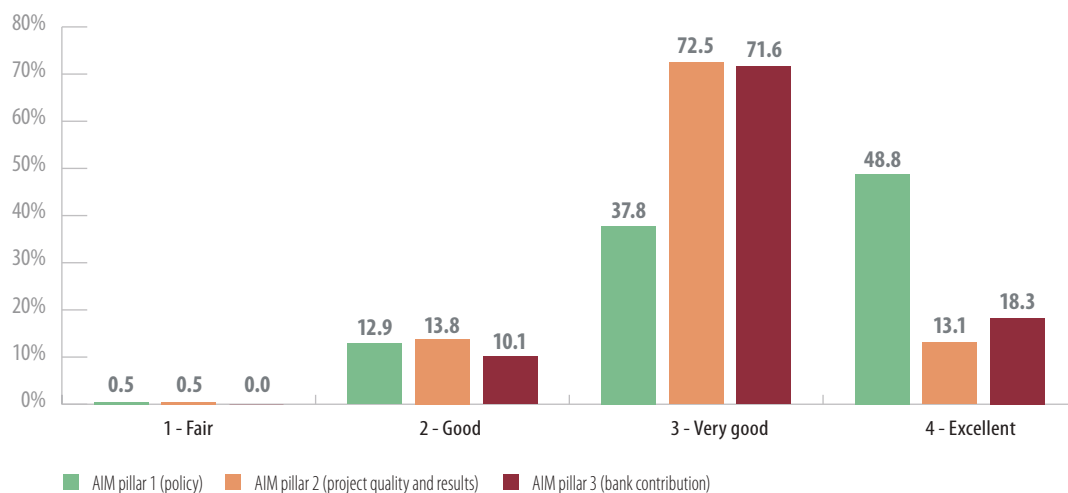
- Pillar 1: **Why** is the Bank's intervention needed, and how much of it? The Bank's operations should address sub-optimal investment situations resulting from market failures.
- Pillar 2: **What** effect will the project have in addressing the identified market failures and development objectives? The Bank support should influence the investment activity undertaken (in terms of scale, scope, structure, quality and/or time) to alleviate the sub-optimal investment situation.
- Pillar 3: **How** does the Bank facilitate projects through financial or non-financial support, complementing market sources? The Bank support should complement what is available from other sources of financing.

Under the Additionality and Impact Measurement (AIM) framework, an additionality and impact statement is published at the time of first signature for each project. This statement explains the project's contribution in terms of the three pillars, and presents in succinct and accessible language the logic underpinning the Bank's decision to finance. Specific indicators provide detailed information on a wide range of projected outputs and outcomes.

This framework is a key tool for ensuring that a project develops effectively. It forms part of the basis for a "managing for results" approach (with phases for steering, designing, implementing, reporting and learning). As part of the due diligence process, all three pillars are rated to assess the operation's value added (for example, on a scale between fair, good, very good and excellent). These ratings form a key part of the decision-making process. The results indicators identified at appraisal are used as the basis for project monitoring throughout the project cycle. When a project is appraised, the Bank estimates the results that will be achieved under it; afterwards, a follow-up of the indicators is performed to assess what was actually delivered. Monitoring results in this way captures lessons that can be fed back into project implementation. Such lessons are also drawn from independent assessments.

In 2024, the portfolio of 426 approved operations had an average rating of very good.

FIGURE 7: 2024 RESULTS FOR VARIOUS ADDITIONALITY AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT CATEGORIES



Source: EIB Group

The EIF’s additionality is embedded in its role as a policy-driven institution that delivers targeted financial solutions to address market failures.²⁵ By addressing structural financing gaps, acting as an ecosystem builder and crowding-in private capital, the EIF enables investments and entrepreneurship that would not be possible to the same extent without public support.

1.4.2. Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guide international efforts to end world poverty, protect the planet and ensure that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity. The EIB Group plays an important role in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contributing to sustainable growth. It has been committed to advancing the SDGs since their adoption, and has been reporting on how Bank investments have been contributing to the SDGs since 2016.

All operations backed by the EIB Group support one or more of the SDGs. Particular focus is placed on the SDGs related to economic growth, innovation and infrastructure, and climate action.²⁶

For the Bank, project-level indicators are mapped to specific SDGs. The Bank encourages promoters to identify opportunities for enhancing the benefits of their operations – providing them with advice and technical support, conducting studies and publishing guidance.

25. For more information, see Chapter 1.3.2.1, “The primary public policy goals” and Chapter 1.5, “Stakeholder engagement and accountability.”

26. For a detailed analysis of the EIB Group’s contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2024, please refer to the [EIB website](#).

TABLE 13: INVESTMENTS SIGNED IN 2024 THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Selected project indicator	Value	SDG
People with access to improved health services	14.9 million	3
Students enrolled in new or refurbished education facilities	368 000	4
People with safer drinking water	13.7 million	6, 11
People with improved sanitation services	5.9 million	6, 11
People with new waste collection systems	2.5 million	11, 12
Social or affordable housing units built or renovated	19 800	10, 11
Housing units with improved energy efficiency	100 400	7, 11
Electricity generation capacity from renewable energy sources (MWh)	20 964	7, 9
Households that can be powered by renewable energy	14.7 million	7, 9
Number of smart energy meters installed	7.2 million	7, 9
New jobs created by 2028	1.5 million	8
Impact on EU GDP by 2028	1.1%	8
Power lines installed or upgraded (km)	107 370	7, 9
New subscribers with 5G services enabled	854 000	9
Population with improved urban/regional infrastructure	67.5 million	9, 11
Additional annual public transport passenger trips	305 million	9, 11
People facing reduced flooding risk	2 million	11

The EIF works with financial intermediaries to promote access to finance for small businesses and entrepreneurs in line with EU priorities. This is why the EIF’s SDG reporting is based on the amount of financing made available to these intermediaries.

Each investment’s contribution to the SDGs is determined by how it aligns with the [EIF’s public policy goal framework](#).

1.4.3. Sustainability funding

Sustainability funding is a strategic business development, necessary for implementing the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) and the [capital markets union](#).

The Bank plays a key role in helping the green bond market grow by supporting liquidity, and standardisation (particularly in impact reporting). It issued the world’s first green bond – the [Climate Awareness Bond \(CAB\)](#) – in 2007, and the green bond market has grown quickly since then. It uses proceeds from sustainability funding instruments exclusively for disbursements to lending activities that contribute substantially to EU sustainability objectives in line with evolving EU legislation on sustainable finance which took the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) on board at the outset. Climate Awareness Bonds focus on climate change mitigation. A similar type of instrument – the [Sustainability Awareness Bond \(SAB\)](#) – focuses on other EU objectives for environmental and social sustainability.

In August 2024, the Bank’s total cumulative issuance of Climate Awareness Bonds and Sustainability Awareness Bonds passed the €100 billion mark since it issued the first green bond in 2007. This makes it the world’s largest multilateral development bank issuer of green bonds, and of assured sustainable bonds with dedicated use of proceeds among multilateral development banks. To meet the needs of a broad investor base, the Bank has issued these bonds in 23 currencies – a market record.

The growth of CAB and SAB issuance is the result of gradual alignment with the [EU taxonomy for sustainable activities](#) and the [European green bond standard](#), which facilitates the extension of eligible objectives and activities (see Table 14). The Bank has the highest level of audit assurance (reasonable assurance) regarding the gradual alignment of green bonds and sustainability bonds with the EU taxonomy and the EU green bond standard.

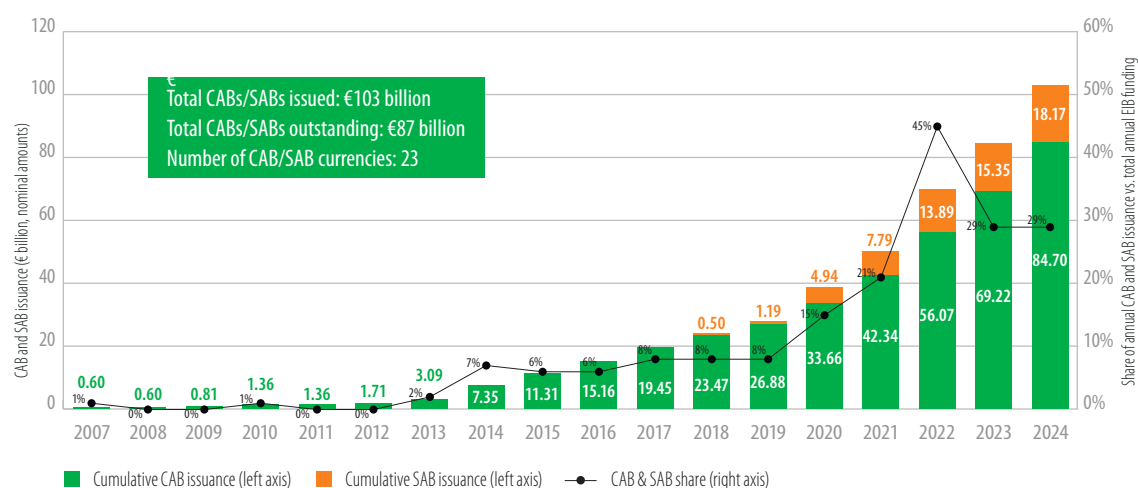
TABLE 14: CAB AND SAB OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Reference SDGs	13 Climate Action	6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 15 Life on Land	3 Good Health and Well-being, 4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality, 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
	Climate Awareness Bonds (CABs)	Sustainability Awareness Bonds (SABs)	
	Environmental	Environmental (other than climate change mitigation)	Social
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change mitigation (2007) 	<p>So far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources (2018) Pollution prevention and control (2018) Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems (2021) 	<p>So far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to water and sanitation (2018) Natural disaster risk management (2018) Access to equitable and inclusive quality education (2019) Universal access to affordable health services (2019) Health emergencies response and preparedness capacity (2020) Access to social and affordable housing (2021) Gender equality (2025) Women's economic empowerment (2025)
Activities	<p>So far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy (2007) Energy efficiency (2007) Electric rail infrastructure and rolling stock, and electric buses (2020) Research, development and deployment of innovative low-carbon technologies (2020) Further taxonomy-eligible low-carbon activities in transport, manufacturing, waste, and energy sectors (2022) 	<p>So far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply and management (2018) Wastewater collection and treatment (2018) Sustainable forest management (2021) 	<p>So far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply and management (2018) Wastewater collection and treatment (2018) Flood protection (2018) Education (2019), including higher education (2020) Health (2019), including COVID-related activities (2020) Housing (2021) Women entrepreneurs and women-owned micro, small and medium-sized firms and mid-caps in various sectors (2025)

Source: EIB Group

Note: The year in parenthesis indicates when the objective or activity became eligible for CAB or SAB allocations.

FIGURE 8: EIB FUNDING FROM CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS BONDS



Source: EIB Group

The Bank released the [EIB Climate Awareness Bonds Framework 2023](#) and enabled issuance in alignment with the European green bond standard (which requires alignment of the use of proceeds with the EU taxonomy criteria). This delivers on the Climate Bank Roadmap's strategy to gradually apply the EU taxonomy and the European green bond standard to EIB green bonds.

1.4.4. Advisory services

The EIB Group's advisory services offering complements its financing activities. Through project-related advisory, capacity building and market development support, the Group helps public authorities improve the delivery of sustainable infrastructure projects, guides innovative ventures in low-carbon technologies on their path to commercialisation, strengthens financial intermediaries' capacity to scale up green finance for small businesses, and nurtures an enabling ecosystem for cleantech investments. For instance, the [Green Gateway](#), financed by the [InvestEU Advisory Hub](#), is an EIB Advisory initiative that helps financial institutions assess the eligibility and impact of green projects. It offers tools like the [Green Eligibility Checker](#), along with a green eligibility helpdesk, web seminars and other assistance.

Advisory services include:

- **Project support:** The EIB Group's advisory services activities range from supporting project preparation and implementation, to financial structuring, impact assessment and advice on procurement and regulation. This increases a project's overall impact – be it improving quality of life or preparing for future challenges like climate change. EIB Group expertise complements and builds on promoters' know-how, and enables government agencies and private companies to implement future projects effectively without outside help.
- **Market development:** The EIB Group advisory services offer sector studies that allow clients to identify market gaps, alongside various funding mechanisms like financial instruments (or investment/advisory platforms) that can help raise money. Clients are given the tools to perform detailed assessments of client needs that increase the potential for impact; for example, of infrastructure or other efforts to mitigate climate change. The process of putting together an assessment also educates the private or public promoter of projects on which funding strategies may be used in the future. As a whole, this assistance makes the best use of EU and public funds – by fostering the creation of sound financial instruments that, within specific sectors or geographies, will enable more investment projects to be brought to fruition with less public money, thanks to multiplier and revolving effects.
- **Capacity building:** EIB Group's advisory services' support takes many forms: coaching, training and campaigns to raise awareness about different funding options (especially financial instruments and investment platforms), strategies for designing a specific investment programme, and help building up local teams' skills. This enhances the skills of promoters, financial intermediaries and beneficiaries, enabling them to embark on projects independently in the future.

Advisory services contribute to the [eight priorities](#) defined in the [EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap](#).

TABLE 15: ADVISORY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROUP'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate action	EIB Advisory accelerates climate action by providing expert support and innovative solutions to projects worldwide. In 2024, its flagship advisory programmes helped identify climate action and environmental sustainability investments and create a pipeline, develop sustainable projects and promote green finance for small and medium-sized firms. These projects target areas of critical importance: climate neutrality, adaptation, energy security, circular economy and a just transition, among others. From governments, regions and municipalities to financial intermediaries, to corporates and innovative startups, a broad range of clients receives support from EIB Advisory to promote climate risk resilience, robust sustainable investment programmes and green finance.
Digitalisation and technological innovation	Cutting-edge technologies are essential to Europe's future. In 2024, EIB Advisory launched the Finance Labs, which bring together investors, disruptors, policymakers and sector experts at events and online to identify ways to finance projects in the space, quantum and chips sectors. EIB Advisory helps innovative companies from across Europe build strong business cases for their projects to secure financing, helping their ideas to have a lasting future. It analyses markets and sectors to find out why some companies can't find financing, and recommends ways to remove these roadblocks. It gives decision-makers tools that make financing available to small and medium-sized companies. It helps partners beyond the European Union create better regulatory environments and prepare better investments, for example, through the new Global Gateway and Critical Raw Materials technical assistance facilities launched in 2024.
Security and defence	The EIB Group invests in Europe's peace and security, and supports the Strategic European Security Initiative . It offers a comprehensive range of advisory services that enhance all stages of the project cycle in this area. Through space and quantum finance labs, it supports cutting-edge technologies that have dual uses in the civil and defence sectors.
A modern cohesion policy	EIB Advisory prioritises advisory assignments in cohesion countries. These areas of Europe need greater support to meet Europe's climate action and social inclusion goals. It helps local and regional authorities in less advanced parts of Europe to close economic gaps and improve living standards.
Agriculture and bioeconomy	The agriculture and bioeconomy sector contributes heavily to economic growth in rural and coastal regions. The EIB Group supports the use of EU shared management financial instruments to help agricultural businesses become more resilient and thrive. Here, advisory support is key to developing new EIB Group intermediated lending schemes targeting agriculture. EIB Advisory conducts market assessments to investigate hurdles and funding gaps in the bioeconomy sector. This work helps shape the direction of future policies inside and outside the European Union. It works with international partners like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to improve food security and agrifood value chains, for example in sub-Saharan Africa.
Social infrastructure	Advisory support helps local and national authorities implement investment projects that provide modern, energy-efficient and affordable housing for students, families and the elderly across Europe. EIB Advisory works hand-in-hand with public sector clients to modernise universities and hospitals, offering better education and healthcare. It also shares this expertise with clients beyond the European Union.
High-impact global investment	EIB Advisory supports the activities of EIB Global by providing advisory services and technical assistance beyond the European Union. This includes helping clients to identify, prepare and implement infrastructure programmes and specific investments, including advice on applying international best practices and EU standards. EIB Advisory also delivers technical assistance programmes beyond Europe to help national authorities, financial intermediaries, microfinance institutions and other private clients improve financial inclusion and ensure that small businesses get financing, with a strong focus on climate sustainability.
Capital markets union	A strong capital markets union is essential for making the European Union more competitive and for putting capital to work where it's needed. The services of EIB Advisory support the EIB Group's four capital markets union building blocks by conducting studies in relation to securitisation.

1.5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As the EU bank, the EIB Group has a responsibility to be open and transparent about how it implements EU policies. This transparency strengthens the Group's credibility and accountability to the public and increases its efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. It reinforces the Group's zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption, promotes accountability and good governance and ensures adherence to environmental and social standards linked to financed projects.

1.5.1. EIB Group stakeholders

The [EIB Group Transparency Policy](#) and the [EIF Transparency Policy](#) govern the Group's engagement with its stakeholders (listed below). The policies are applied in conjunction with other EIB Group policies and rules, such as the [EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy](#), the Whistleblowing Policy (detailed in Chapter 11, "Driving responsible business Conduct"), the [EIB Group Complaints Mechanism Policy](#) and relevant codes of conduct applicable to staff and governing bodies.

The EIB Group Transparency Policy's Guiding Principles (section 2) apply to the Group as a whole, while the subsequent parts apply to the Bank only. The EIF has established its [own implementation framework](#), which considers the Fund's specific business and governance context.

The EIB Group engages with a broad range of stakeholders:

- academia and research institutions;
- associations, foundations and think tanks;
- civil society and other non-governmental organisations, including trade unions;
- clients, investors, commercial banks and funds;
- environmental, social and governance (ESG) analysts, financial analysts and rating agencies;
- EU institutions and bodies;
- the media;
- multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions;
- national promotional banks;
- project promoters and other financial beneficiaries;
- the public (including local communities);
- EIB Group staff.

Transparency and engagement is a shared responsibility. Within the Bank, the Transparency and Civil Society Unit in the Sustainability Division coordinates the Transparency Policy's implementation and ensures the consistency and quality of the communication between the Bank and its stakeholders. The team is responsible for engaging with civil society organisations (for example NGOs, think tanks, professional associations and other socioeconomic and labour organisations) and replying to queries from a wider range of stakeholders about the Bank's policies and strategies through the EIB Infodesk.

The Sustainability Risk and Compliance Unit, part of the EIF's Risk Management Department, implements the EIF Transparency Policy and coordinates replies to external inquiries. The unit also contributes to the annual [Report on the implementation of the EIB Group Transparency Policy](#).

1.5.2. Publication and disclosure of information

To support and promote transparency, the EIB Group is committed to regularly publishing accurate and timely information about its role, policies and operations, including:

- institutional information
- policies and strategies
- project-related information
- procurement information and tender notices
- accountability, risk management and governance-related information
- evaluation reports
- environmental, sustainability and climate-related information

The main channel for disseminating this information is the EIB website (www.eib.org) and the EIF website (www.eif.org). The EIB Group also provides information through print publications, documents, social media, press releases, conferences, seminars and other means.

1.5.2.1. The public register

In accordance with Regulation (EC) N°1367/2006 (the Aarhus Regulation), the Bank created its public register on 2 January 2014. The **public register** contains environmental information in accordance with the Aarhus Regulation and is continuously updated. It currently includes the Bank's key project-related environmental, climate and social documents held by the Bank, as well as some key environmental policy documents, including:

- EIB environmental and social data sheets, which summarise the Bank's environmental and social appraisal of individual projects. These are published on the public register following project approval by the relevant Bank governing body. The public register contains environmental and social data sheets for projects approved since 2012.
- EIB environmental and social completion sheets, which summarise the Bank's assessment of environmental and social issues at the project completion stage. They are published on the register after the completion of the Bank's investment and after the environmental and social data sheet for the project is published.
- The full environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) studies/statements/reports for all projects, where applicable. These include environmental impact assessment reports for projects in the European Union and ESIA reports for projects beyond the European Union.
- Environmental and social management plans.
- Strategic environmental assessment reports (known as Environmental Reports in the European Union) summarise the environmental and health considerations linked to plans and programmes.
- Social documentation, such as resettlement action plans, stakeholder engagement plans, livelihood and restoration/compensation plans, resettlement policy frameworks and indigenous peoples development plans. These are published when applicable once they are available to the Bank.
- Key environmental policy documents, reports and guidelines, such as the **EIB Environmental and Social Standards**, and Carbon Footprint Reports.

The greenhouse gas footprints of projects included in the carbon footprint exercise are reported in environmental and social data sheets, and published in our public register of environmental information, in compliance with the Aarhus Regulation.

The EIF introduced its **public register** in 2024. The register currently includes the environmental and social data sheet for infrastructure and climate funds, environmental and climate reports, policies, guidelines and publications.



1.5.2.2. Evaluations

The Evaluation function conducts and publishes independent evaluations of the EIB Group's activities.²⁷

- It assesses the relevance and performance of the EIB Group's activities.
- Its evaluations draw lessons and issue recommendations to help the EIB Group improve.
- It promotes accountability towards the EIB Group's stakeholders and provides independent and credible evidence to inform decision making.

The Evaluation function operates independently from the EIB Group's operations. Its reports are submitted to the boards of directors of the Bank and the EIF after discussion by the Bank's Management Committee and/or the EIF chief executive. The evaluation reports are published on the Bank's website.

1.5.2.3. Disclosure of information upon request

Both the EIB Group Transparency Policy and EIF Transparency Policy are based on the principle of openness and presumption of disclosure. Therefore, all documents held by EIB and EIF are, in principle, accessible to anyone in a timely manner.²⁸

At the same time, the EIB Group has to protect legitimate interests that may be harmed if sensitive information was disclosed. As a financial institution, we must maintain the confidence and trust of our clients and project partners. The transparency policies of the EIB Group and the EIF list the exceptions under which we may refuse to disclose certain information, such as personal data, patents and information relating to ongoing investigations.

There are two main channels for requesting information from the Bank:

- Public enquiries about the Bank's financing facilities, activity, organisation and objectives should be addressed to the [Infodesk](#).
- Information requests from civil society and other organised stakeholders are handled by the [Transparency and Civil Society Unit](#).

Enquiries to the EIF can be made through the [dedicated request form on the Fund's website](#).

27. More information is available in Chapter 1, "General information" and on the [Bank's website](#).

28. Read more about the [implementation of the EIB Group Transparency Policy in 2023](#) and [EIF Transparency Policy](#), updated in 2024.

1.5.3. Stakeholder engagement and public consultations

The EIB Group's stakeholder engagement follows best practices and aims to increase mutual understanding, address concerns and adjust the Group's activities as necessary, decrease any gaps between expectations, policy and practice and improve the coherence and accountability of the EIB Group's policies and practices.

1.5.3.1. Seminar between the EIB Board of Directors and civil society organisations

Each year, the Bank organises a one-day hybrid seminar for the EIB Board of Directors and civil society organisations, giving members of these organisations an opportunity to raise their questions in person to the Bank's senior management and governing bodies.

On 15 October 2024, the seminar was on [overcoming the barriers to achieving a safe and sustainable world](#). More than 70 representatives attended from 50 civil society organisations from around the world.

Civil society organisations raised some important issues with board members and discussed how the Bank implemented and monitored its environmental and social standards, especially in fragile or conflict-affected areas.

1.5.3.2. Public consultations on selected policies

The Bank at times organises formal public consultations on key corporate and sectoral policies of interest to wider stakeholder communities. The objectives of public consultations are mainly:

- to benefit from the expertise of a wide range of individuals and organisations and receive valuable inputs for policy development;
- to reinforce the Bank's transparency and accountability.

All public consultations are [announced on the Bank's website](#), with a [dedicated web page](#) for each one.

While each public consultation is individually tailored, they all follow certain principles:

- At least one public consultation meeting is held during the consultation process to enable direct dialogue between the Bank's staff and interested stakeholders.
- All contributions received during the public consultation period (generally eight to 12 weeks) are published on the dedicated web page.
- The Bank's response to each contribution (approved by the Bank's management) is submitted to the Bank's governing bodies with a final draft policy and a draft consultation report.
- All these documents are attached to a public consultation report.

After the public consultation closes, the draft policy and public consultation report are published on the dedicated public consultation web page at least 15 working days before approval by the relevant Bank governing body. After approval, the Bank publishes the final policy on the Bank's website.

No public consultations were needed or conducted in 2024.

1.5.3.3. Engagement at the project level²⁹

Meaningful stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of sustainable and inclusive development and the foundation for respecting the rights of individuals and communities. Engagement with stakeholders is encouraged at every stage of a project cycle.

FIGURE 9: TRANSPARENCY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT CYCLE



Source: EIB Group

The Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards promote an inclusive and systemic approach to disseminating information and engaging with local stakeholders for projects, all of which is the responsibility of promoters and/or borrowers.

The Bank has developed a [guidance note](#) to provide recommendations to promoters on how to meet the Bank’s requirements for stakeholder engagement. The note includes good practices to help promoters maximise the benefits of a project. It is also intended for people, communities, civil society organisations, government agencies and other parties affected by the project or interested in Bank-supported projects.

1.5.3.4. Engagement on topics of common interest

Engagement with civil society organisations can take the form of shared initiatives, partnerships and sponsorship on a range of issues linked to the Bank’s strategic priorities.

The Bank partners with civil society organisations on specific topics and initiatives related to the Bank’s strategic priorities, such as ecosystem restoration and protection, nature-based solutions for adaptation and a sustainable bioeconomy. Civil society organisations’ close contacts on the ground can offer local expertise and stakeholder engagement that help to build skills and local ownership and improve the adherence to biodiversity and nature-based solutions early in a project cycle.

29. Please also refer to Chapter 8, “Supporting communities and cohesion.”

For instance, in 2024, the Bank signed a [memorandum of understanding with the World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#) to accelerate the development of nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and biodiversity and to support early-stage nature-based adaptation projects, working alongside leading public institutions, civil society organisations and companies.

In 2024, we also [partnered with the Nature-based Infrastructure Global Resource Centre](#) to develop guidance for public authorities and the Bank on building the investment case for nature-based infrastructure for climate adaptation, providing step-by-step instructions for municipal and regional governments to assess and communicate the costs and benefits of nature-based and hybrid approaches, compared with traditional grey infrastructure.

Finally, in support of the sustainable bioeconomy, we [partnered in 2024 with Finance Earth](#) to identify investment opportunities to support improvements in fishery sustainability.

1.5.3.5. Engagement with key stakeholders

Guided by EU policy, including commitments to the Paris Agreement on climate action and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the EIB Group fosters sustainable growth within the European Union and beyond. The EIB Group cooperates and works on global challenges with a wide range of civil society organisations and multilateral development banks, contributes to associations and subscribes to various economic, environmental and social charters, principles and other initiatives.

TABLE 16: MAIN INTERNATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

The EIB and the EIF are appointed members of the Platform on Sustainable Finance , an advisory body that provides recommendations to the European Commission on the implementation and usability of the EU taxonomy and the sustainable finance framework more broadly.
Since 2019, the EIB has been an observer of the International Platform on Sustainable Finance , a forum for dialogue between policymakers, with the overall aim of increasing the amount of private capital being invested in environmentally sustainable initiatives.
The European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) is the association in charge of setting the European Sustainability Reporting Standards required under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. The EIB is an observer of EFRAG's Sustainability Reporting Board and its Technical Expert Group.
The EIB is an observer of the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) , a network of central banks and financial supervisors that aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance. The EIB is represented in the NGFS Plenary and its different working groups, which develop recommendations and guidance for environmental and climate risk management in the financial sector, regularly update the NGFS climate scenarios and mobilise mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.
Since October 2020, the EIF has been a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) , a United Nations-supported network.
Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is a non-profit organisation that promotes and collects the disclosure of environmental impact (climate, deforestation and water) of companies, cities, regions and states. The EIB Group is a signatory of the CDP since 2021.
Since 2018, the EIB Group has implemented an environmental management system in accordance with the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) , a voluntary environmental management instrument developed by the European Commission for organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance.

1.5.4. Mechanisms to address complaints and grievances

The EIB Group Complaints Mechanism Division implements the [Complaints Mechanism Policy and Procedures](#), in relationship with other EIB Group departments and with the European Ombudsman.³⁰

1.5.4.1. Complementary levels of accountability

There are three types of grievance mechanisms available related to EIB Group projects and activities:

- promoters' grievance mechanisms
- the EIB Group Complaints Mechanism
- the European Ombudsman

Grievance mechanism at project level

The Bank requires the promoters of projects it finances to establish effective grievance mechanisms early in the project cycle. These mechanisms are designed to address concerns and grievances for individual projects.

The mechanisms must enable prompt and effective complaints resolution, and be free from intimidation or reprisals. They should be gender-responsive and accessible to all, including vulnerable or marginalised groups. Anonymity and privacy must be guaranteed, and information about the grievance process must be publicly available in all relevant languages and through the appropriate channels. The grievance process must be clearly defined, with step-by-step procedures, indicative time frames, expected outcomes, monitoring indicators and reporting obligations.

Promoters can use existing formal or informal grievance systems, provided that they are appropriately designed and implemented for the project's context. If necessary, the Bank may require additional project-specific arrangements.

The Bank may support promoters in providing remedies, especially when contextual factors or limited capacity hinder effective redress. This support can include technical assistance, capacity-building, dispute resolution or negotiations with affected rights-holders. If breaches of the Bank's standards are identified during the monitoring phase – such as instances of child or forced labour – the Bank can apply leverage and support the promoters in their efforts to address and remedy the issues as needed.³¹

EIB Group Complaints Mechanism

The EIB Group is committed to transparency, accountability and the continuous improvement of its own policies, processes and practices. Alongside the Evaluation Division, Internal Audit and other divisions, the [Complaints Mechanism](#) plays a crucial role in this process.

The Complaints Mechanism operates as a non-judicial, solution-driven service, based on the principles of independence and transparency. It has four functions:

- investigating complaints against the EIB Group;
- facilitating dispute resolution processes between complainant(s) and project promoter(s) with the participation of national authorities and/or the relevant EIB Group divisions wherever appropriate;
- advising senior management on issues directly or indirectly linked to cases handled, based on potential areas for improvement detected in the complaints-handling process;
- monitoring the implementation of agreed corrective actions and recommendations for closed complaints, including agreements reached through dispute resolution.

30. Read more about the Complaints Mechanism's process and activities in Chapter 1.5.4.2., "The EIB Group Complaints Mechanism process and activities."

31. See [Annex C, Step 3 of The EIB's approach to human rights – information note](#).

European Ombudsman

The EIB Group Complaints Mechanism cooperates with the European Ombudsman, which can review the decisions made by EIB Group entities. Any member of the public can access this two-tier procedure: the Bank's Complaints Mechanism as an initial step and the European Ombudsman as a further possible step.

This ensures an extra level of independence and accountability, a unique feature among independent accountability mechanisms of international financial institutions.

Jurisdiction

Disputes involving the Group and its entities are not automatically excluded from the jurisdiction of national courts, contrary to other international financial institutions. Disputes between the Bank and its creditors, debtors, or any other parties are generally decided by the competent national courts. The Court of Justice of the European Union handles disputes between the Bank and Member States and, when necessary, assesses the legality of decisions made by the Board of Governors and the Board of Directors.

1.5.4.2. The EIB Group Complaints Mechanism process and activities

The EIB Group Complaints Mechanism facilitates and handles complaints from individuals, organisations, local authorities or corporations against EIB Group activities.

Complainants do not need to be directly affected by the EIB Group's decision, action or omission, and are not required to identify the specific policy, procedure or standard that may have been breached.

Upon receiving a complaint about the environmental and social impact of Bank-financed operations, the EIB Group Complaints Mechanism follows five possible steps:

- a decision about the admissibility of a complaint;
- an initial assessment of the allegations;
- a decision on whether further assessment is needed and the best way to handle the complaint (compliance review or dispute resolution process);
- if necessary, a compliance review or dispute resolution process;
- a conclusions/dispute resolution report.

Cases concerning allegations of negative environmental or social effects or about the governance of EIB Group-financed operations undergo an extended review, which entails a longer response time frame.

Complaints are not confidential unless the complainant asks for confidentiality. The Complaints Mechanism may decide to treat grievances in a confidential manner even if there is no such request from complainants in cases where there is a risk of retaliation. Complaints Mechanism reports on specific non-confidential complaints are publicly available. In line with the applicable regulation, the EIB Group Complaints Mechanism reports do not contain personal data of the complainants and/or other subjects concerned by the case.

✓ *In 2024, 69 complaints relating to EIB Group-financed operations and/or administration were registered, compared with 60 in 2023:*

- *63 complaints were directly submitted to the Complaints Mechanism, which declared 39 of them admissible (in 2023, there were 54 and 44 of them were admissible);*
- *6 complaints were filed with the European Ombudsman, who declared all of them admissible (in 2023, there were 6, and 5 of them were admissible).*

TABLE 17: TOTAL NUMBER OF INCOMING COMPLAINTS

Incoming complaints	2022	2023	2024
Total complaints received	54	60	69
Complaints submitted directly to the EIB Group Complaints Mechanism	47	54	63
Inadmissible	13	10	24
Admissible	34	44	39
Complaints brought before other institutions			
European Ombudsman	6	6	6
Inadmissible	1	1	0
Admissible	5	5	6
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	1	-	-

TABLE 18: TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS HANDLED

Complaints	2022	2023	2024
Registered	54	60	69
Closed	53	60	80
Outstanding at end of the year	44	44	33
Complaints dealt with	97	104	113

TABLE 19: ADMISSIBLE COMPLAINTS, BY TYPE (EXCLUDING THE EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN)

Complaints	2022	2023	2024
Access to information	2	2	3
Customer relations	1	0	0
Environmental/social/developmental impacts	23	27	30
Governance of financed projects	0	1	0
Own governance and administration	7	7	2
Human resources	1	7	4
Total	34	44	39

As in previous years, complaints concerning the environmental and social impact of EIB Group-financed projects represent the largest proportion of admissible complaints. The share of complaints related to own governance and administration and human resources decreased in 2024 compared with 2023.

Complaints Mechanism reporting

The Complaints Mechanism reports on its activities on a quarterly basis to the Bank's Management Committee, the chair of the Bank's Audit Committee and the EIF chief executive, and semi-annually to the boards of directors of the Bank and the EIF. It also submits an [annual report](#), including decisions based on recommendations by the Complaints Mechanism or by external non-judicial review mechanisms, such as the European Ombudsman, to the Bank's Management Committee, the EIF chief executive and the boards of directors.



The [EIB Group Complaints Mechanism Policy](#) and [Procedures](#) were last revised in 2018 following an external review and consultation with external stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, European Ombudsman, external experts, etc. Outreach workshops are organised regularly to raise awareness about the Complaints Mechanism’s work, and an annual meeting is held with civil society organisations.

In 2024, the Inspector General introduced an external review of the EIB Group Complaints Mechanism by a panel of independent experts, to assess how the Complaints Mechanism delivers on its mandate and whether the current policy and procedures need to be revised. Civil society organisations and other external stakeholders would be consulted in case of such a revision.



An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir. The reservoir is a vibrant turquoise color, filling the bottom third of the frame. The dam is a long, curved concrete structure that follows the edge of the reservoir. The surrounding landscape is a rugged, rocky canyon with steep, light-colored slopes. A winding road is visible on the right side of the canyon. The overall scene is arid and mountainous.

PART IV

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION



2.
SUPPORTING
THE GREEN TRANSITION



Key messages

Addressing climate and environmental challenges is at the heart of the EIB Group's activities, which also help advance the wider green transition. Through its direct and indirect investments, and its advisory services, the EIB Group contributes to projects that have a positive environmental impact in the European Union and worldwide.

Climate action and environmental sustainability finance targets

The EIB Group has set ambitious financing targets related to climate action and environmental sustainability:

- Increasing the share of the Bank's annual financing for climate action and environmental sustainability to more than 50% by 2025 and beyond.
- Supporting €1 trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability from 2021 to 2030, at the EIB Group level.

Climate action and environmental sustainability financing

In 2024, the Group invested a record €51 billion – which represents about 60% of all investment – to advance the green transition, climate action and environmental sustainability. For its part, the European Investment Bank committed €44.8 billion of its own resources to climate action and environmental sustainability, representing 60% of its total financing. It is also mobilising €100 billion for energy investments.

The EIF committed €6.1 billion to climate action and environmental sustainability, representing 43% of its financing volume in 2024.



Investment supported

In 2024, the EIB Group is estimated to have supported overall climate action and environmental sustainability investments of €209 billion. This brings the total for 2021-2024 to €563 billion, putting the Group on track to achieve the €1 trillion target by 2030.

Beyond finance: EIB Advisory

The EIB Group offers advisory services supporting the entire project cycle and beyond. These services help create the right conditions for green investments, support the transition to a low-carbon economy and turn project ideas into reality. EIB Advisory provides project support, market development and capacity building, helping supranational institutions, governments, public authorities, financial intermediaries, and private firms and small businesses to make progress on the green transition.

2.1. CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Climate action and environmental sustainability are at the heart of the EIB Group's work. The [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#)¹ lays out how the Group will meet its climate and environment commitments, including increasing the share of its annual financing for climate action and environmental sustainability (in other words, green finance) to more than 50% by 2025.

This target is intended to support the sizeable funding needs of the green transition. However, the Group's own finance is not enough. To reach the goal of mobilising €1 trillion of green investment in the critical decade ending in 2030, the EIB Group must leverage these funds to attract finance from private and public investors.

To track how its finance contributes to climate action and environmental sustainability objectives, the EIB Group has developed a framework that outlines which activities it considers to be contributing to these objectives, published as the [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability – List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#) and [Guideline on the EIF's criteria for Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability \(CA&ES\)](#). It includes activities addressing the six climate and environmental objectives of the [EU Taxonomy Regulation](#): climate mitigation, climate adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, the transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The climate action and environmental sustainability framework is anchored in the criteria for a substantial contribution under the EU taxonomy, while also following the [Joint methodology for tracking climate change adaptation finance](#) and [Common Principles for Climate Mitigation Finance Tracking](#) used by multilateral development banks and the [International Development Finance Club](#). For activities substantially contributing to non-climate objectives that are outside the scope of the EU taxonomy delegated acts, the EIB Group uses internal definitions developed based on the principles defined in the EU Taxonomy Regulation.

As part of **climate action**, the EIB Group invests in projects and technologies that mitigate climate change by reducing, avoiding or absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as solutions that support these activities and are essential for their operation.

The Group also supports climate change adaptation projects, enabling technologies and solutions that help public- and private-sector organisations adapt to the impact of current and future climate change. To support the [EU Adaptation Strategy](#), the Bank published [The EIB Climate Adaptation Plan](#) in October 2021. The plan calls for devoting 15% of climate action investments to adaptation by 2025.

Environmental sustainability includes investments that substantially contribute to one of the four non-climate related objectives (sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, and protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems), as outlined under the EU Taxonomy Regulation. Investments can have dual benefits when they contribute to climate action and environmental sustainability at the same time.

The environmental sustainability objective with the largest dual benefit with climate action is pollution prevention and control. For example, electrified transport projects support both climate change mitigation and pollution prevention because they reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

1. The EIB Group published Phase 2 of the Climate Bank Roadmap in October 2025. The new roadmap covers 2026-2030.



While not directly tracked against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), financed projects that contribute to the EIB Group's climate action and environmental sustainability objectives also provide benefits that contribute to the SDGs. The main impact is on SDG 6 (clean water), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 13 (climate action).

2.2. FINANCING CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

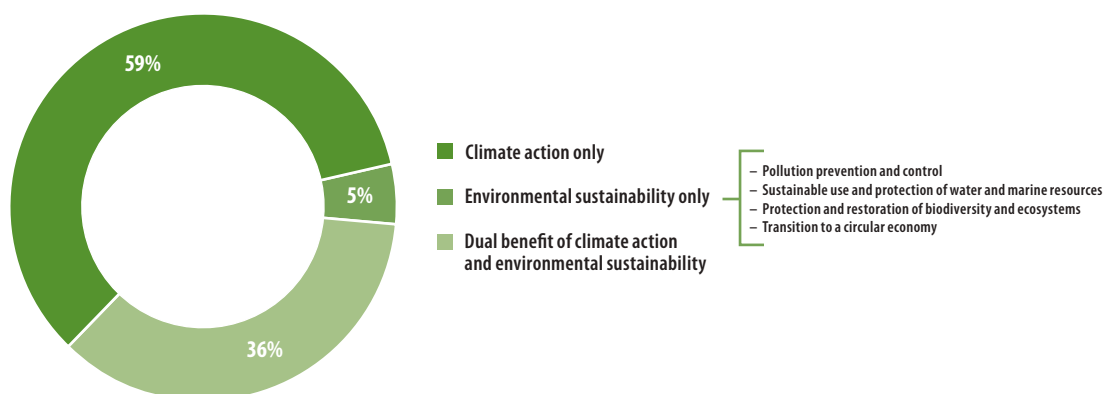
2.2.1. The European Investment Bank's climate action and environmental sustainability financing

In 2024, the Bank committed €44.8 billion of its own resources to climate action and environmental sustainability (€44.3 billion in 2023), which represents 60% of the Bank's own resources for 2024. Out of this figure, €16.3 billion supported the dual objectives of climate action and environmental sustainability. The Bank is on track to meet its commitment of gradually increasing the share of its annual financing dedicated to climate action and environmental sustainability to more than 50% by 2025 and beyond.

In 2024, €38.1 billion went to climate change mitigation (85% of total investment in climate action and environmental sustainability). The Bank's financing for climate mitigation remained relatively stable compared with 2023 (€39.1 billion), although there was a significant rise in financing for renewable energy (up to €13.8 billion in 2024 from €9.1 billion in 2023).

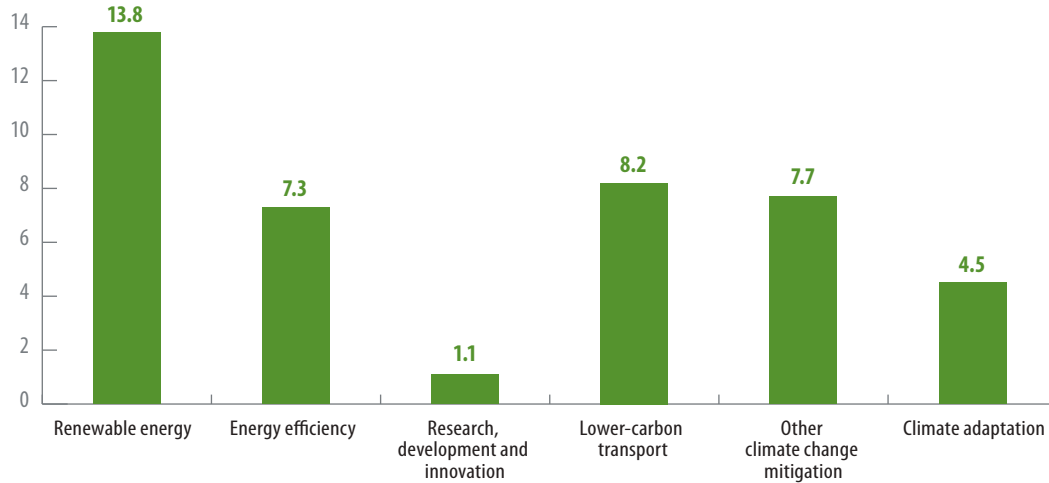
Demand is also increasing for climate adaptation finance, which represented 10.6% of climate action lending at the end of 2024. The Bank devoted a record €4.5 billion to adaptation investments in 2024, an increase of 68% from 2023 and a tripling in volume since 2021. Despite this significant increase in adaptation finance volumes in recent years, delivering against the target of allocating 15% of climate action finance to adaptation by the end of 2025 will be challenging due to the sharp growth in climate mitigation and therefore overall climate action volumes, much of it associated with the support for REPowerEU.

FIGURE 1: INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, 2024



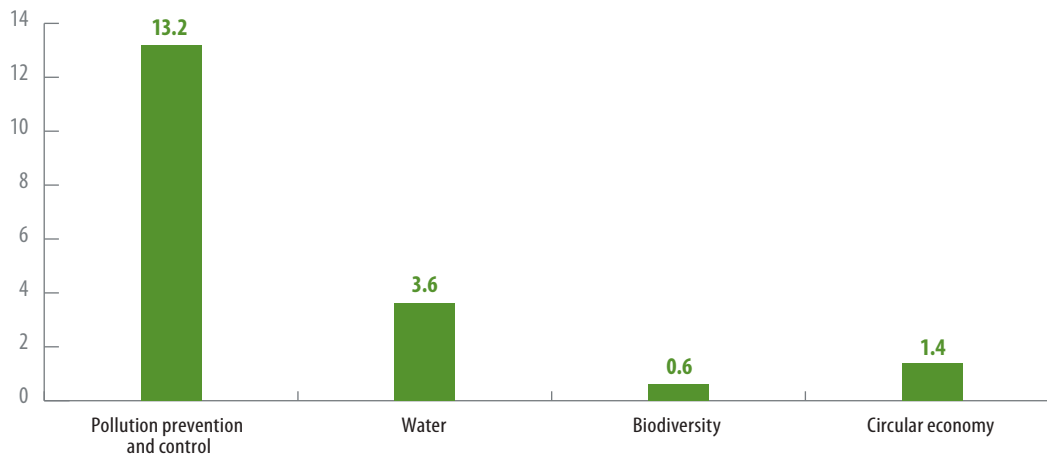
Source: EIB Group

FIGURE 2: CLIMATE ACTION FINANCE (€ BILLION), INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DUAL BENEFITS



Source: EIB Group

FIGURE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FINANCE (€ BILLION), INCLUDING CLIMATE ACTION DUAL BENEFITS



Source: EIB Group

Some EIB investments have dual environmental sustainability benefits, as they contribute to more than one environmental sustainability objective. In 2024, a total of €138 million (0.7% of the total environmental sustainability contribution) contributed to more than one environmental sustainability objective.

2.2.2. European Investment Fund climate action and environmental sustainability financing

The EIF plays a significant role in the green transition. Its work ranges from supporting early-stage innovators developing the technological solutions that will put Europe (and the planet) on a more sustainable path, to helping these businesses grow and scale their solutions. The Fund also ensures that companies across all sectors of the economy are able to access the financing they need to adapt and future-proof their business models.

The EIF sets an annual target for the share of financing it devotes to climate action and environmental sustainability, which includes investments to restore or protect biodiversity and ecosystems. This was 16% of financing in 2022, 22% in 2023 and 25% in 2024. The EIF increased it to 30% in 2024 for the three-year planning period from 2025 to 2027, with the intent to further review and potentially increase it in future years. Those figures surpass projections from when the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) was adopted.

In 2024, the EIF committed €6.1 billion to climate action and environmental sustainability, which represented 43% of EIF's financing volumes in 2024, consisting primarily of managed and advised resources.

On the equity side, the EIF's climate action and environmental sustainability commitments increased sharply in 2024, with committed volumes in sustainability infrastructure, venture capital, private equity and private credit funds totalling €2.79 billion.

A key enabler in the green and digital transitions are infrastructure projects, which allow firms to scale new technological solutions. Infrastructure fund investment rose sharply in 2024 to €1.46 billion – up from €1 billion in 2023 and €625 million in 2022. This growth has come with an expansion in the scope of sustainable infrastructure activity – beyond energy, renewables and power generation in general, to social infrastructure (especially affordable housing), digital infrastructure (data centres) and energy efficiency.

The EIF reached a record volume of investments in the greentech market in 2024, backing 20 greentech funds focused on clean energy and climate tech, agri-food innovation, urban tech and sustainable mobility. The EIF also entered new countries (like Poland) and expanded coverage of the Nordic countries and Southern Europe (Spain and Italy). It worked to reach underserved segments of technology transfer and early-stage greentech innovation, and to support scaling of clean technologies (especially deep technologies) and hardware and asset-based solutions that require industrialisation and relatively large capital investments.

In 2024, the EIF took a more thematic approach to its private equity and private credit investment strategy. In particular, it focused more on the green and digital transition and industrial resilience by supporting the green and digital transformation in traditional industries like manufacturing, using private equity to deploy more mature technologies and to help companies decarbonise as well improve circularity and energy efficiency. Around half of the EIF's private equity and private credit activity volumes in 2024 focused on sustainability.

On the debt side, the EIF committed €3.33 billion in green guarantees, securitisation and microfinance.

Building on a strong performance in 2023, securitisation activity, backed largely by the Bank, continued to deliver good results. The €2.4 billion of securitisation transactions signed in 2024 are expected to generate €4.4 billion of new financing, around half of which will be green financing. This exemplifies how securitisation can support the green transition by applying the “use of proceeds approach” – channelling the proceeds to new green investments.

The **InvestEU Sustainability Guarantee** has enjoyed strong demand as the EU economy navigates the green transition. More than 170 transactions across 27 different countries with financial intermediaries had been signed by the end of 2024. To date, the majority of the 1 900 funding recipients under the guarantee have either met the criteria of a sustainable enterprise (for examples, as a clean energy, eco-label or environmentally certified business), or have sought to invest in areas of climate change mitigation, such as energy efficiency, lower carbon mobility or renewable energy.

In 2025, the EIF is expected to consistently contribute to climate action and environmental sustainability, setting its target to at least 33% of total financing for that year.

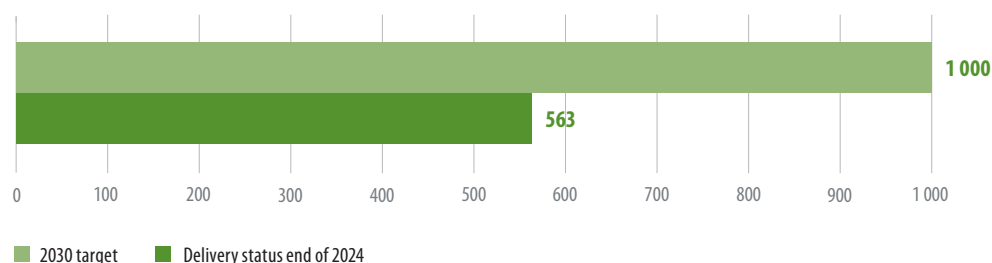
2.3. INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED IN THE CRITICAL DECADE

Considering the scale of finance required to support the green transition, the EIB Group set a target to support €1 trillion of green investment in the critical decade of 2021-2030. This target reflects the wider effect of the Group's financing through private mobilisation and public co-financing.

Jointly, the EIB Group is estimated to have supported overall climate action and environmental sustainability investments in 2024 of €209 billion.

This brings the total for 2021-2024 to €563 billion, leaving the EIB Group well on track to reaching the €1 trillion target by 2030.

FIGURE 4: PROGRESS ON THE €1 TRILLION CLIMATE TARGET FOR 2030 (€ BILLION)



Source: EIB Group

2.4. SUPPORTING THE EU TAXONOMY

A mid-term review of the **EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025** was conducted halfway through its implementation. Although its approach was adjusted in response to scientific, regulatory and market developments since 2020, a key conclusion of the review was that the roadmap remained fit for purpose.

One development outlined in the mid-term review relates to the EU **sustainable finance** agenda, and in particular the EU **Taxonomy Regulation**. For sectors listed in the EU taxonomy, the EIB Group's green finance tracking methodology uses the taxonomy criteria² to determine whether there is a substantial contribution to climate and environmental objectives.

2. A few minor adjustments are made, for example for greenhouse gas emission accounting methodologies or for electrification plans for rail projects in developing countries, which can be found in the published tables: [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability - List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#).



The EU taxonomy “Do No Significant Harm” to climate mitigation and adaptation criteria serve as a key baseline for the EIB Group’s approach to Paris alignment (for more information, see Chapter 3, “Tackling climate change”). “Do No Significant Harm” principles for all six objectives of the EU taxonomy are also integrated into The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy.

The mid-term review of the roadmap acknowledged that the EU taxonomy has developed extensively since the original Climate Bank Roadmap. While continuing to gradually integrate the EU taxonomy into its climate action and environmental sustainability tracking methodology, the EIB Group has adjusted the approach originally set out in the roadmap.

The mid-term review noted that stakeholders reported challenges applying certain elements of the EU taxonomy, such as the availability and usefulness of data. Here, the EIB Group has continued to engage with its clients, the Platform on Sustainable Finance and the European Commission, including providing input on how to simplify the taxonomy in 2024. The Group will continue applying its environmental and social sustainability framework, Paris alignment framework, and other policies on investment eligibility criteria to safeguard against environmental and social harm.

Partial alignment with the EU taxonomy

As mentioned above, the EIB Group has generally integrated the criteria for making a “substantial contribution” from the EU taxonomy delegated acts into its climate action and environmental sustainability tracking methodology (with adaptations for intermediated finance products). In 2023, and continuing in 2024, the Bank measured progress toward the application of substantial contribution criteria by assessing the share of climate action and environmental sustainability financing using such criteria.

☑ *Of the EIB’s climate action and environmental sustainability financing from its own resources in 2024, at least €33.6 billion in investments meet the substantial contribution criteria of the EU taxonomy climate and environmental delegated acts, without a full assessment of Do No Significant Harm criteria or Minimum Safeguards requirements, and are therefore considered as partially aligning with the EU taxonomy. That’s over 75% of EIB climate action and environmental sustainability financing for 2024.*

2.5. EIB ADVISORY SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION

Advisory services are a crucial part of the EIB Group's efforts to develop markets, build capacity and support high-impact projects. The advisory services provided by EIB Advisory translate complex EU policy objectives into clear solutions for clients. Serving the whole EIB Group, EIB Advisory helps the EIB Group finance more projects, invest better and meet the core strategic priorities. (For more information, see Chapter 1, "General information".)

2.5.1. EIB Advisory services in the European Union

EIB Advisory accelerates climate action and environmental sustainability by providing expert support and innovative solutions for projects. It supports a wide range of clients, from governments, regions and municipalities to financial intermediaries, corporates and innovative startups.

In 2024, advisory programmes helped identify climate action and environmental sustainability investments, develop sustainable projects, and promote green finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. These programmes target areas of critical importance like climate neutrality, adaptation, energy security, circular economy and the just transition.

- The EIB Group's **Climate Adaptation Investment Advisory Platform (ADAPT)**, financed by the InvestEU Advisory Hub, offers technical and financial expertise for investment projects that increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. ADAPT helps strengthen the resilience of cities, infrastructure networks, coastal areas, river basins, food systems, forests and ecosystems and other activities vulnerable to climate change. It also contributes to the development of climate adaptation strategies.
- Also financed by the InvestEU Advisory Hub, the **Green Gateway** programme (started in 2021) helps financial institutions assess the eligibility and impact of green projects. It improves the effectiveness of green intermediated lending by the EIB Group, identifying projects with real benefits for environmental sustainability and the climate. To date, it has supported over 37 financial intermediaries in 19 countries.
- The Green Gateway offers **tools** like the Green Eligibility Checker and the EIF Sustainability Guarantee Tool, along with a green eligibility helpdesk, web seminars and other assistance. Together, these web tools had over 110 000 visits to date. The Green Gateway also provides targeted support services to financial intermediaries to accelerate lending for climate projects. This covers product development, portfolio screening and impact reporting.
- Through the **Innovation Fund Project Development Assistance (PDA)** financed by the European Commission, EIB Advisory helps improve project maturity, which is essential for projects to be eligible for grant support. The **Innovation Fund** is one of the largest grant programmes for low-carbon innovative technologies and is implemented with assistance from the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency**. It aims to offer €40 billion in grants over ten years to highly innovative projects that can cut large amounts of emissions.
- The **Circular City Centre – C3** offers guidance documents and tools, webinars and workshops, along with two advisory programmes, to prepare impactful circular projects. These resources guide cities in their circular economy transformation. The centre is implemented in cooperation with the European Commission under the **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative**, with financing from the InvestEU Advisory Hub.
- Through the European Local Energy Assistance (**ELENA**) facility within the InvestEU Advisory Hub, EIB Advisory supports public and private entities through technical assistance grants. The grant covers up to 90% of the preparation costs for sustainable investment programmes. The Bank appraises their eligibility and need for support, and helps design technical assistance work programmes to be implemented by the beneficiary. Each final support package must be approved by the European Commission on the Bank's recommendation. Since its creation in 2009, the ELENA facility has allocated some €352 million to 195 projects, linked to total investments of around €11.8 billion.

- Through its Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (**JASPERS**) mandate, EIB Advisory provides climate-related support that is closely aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. By embedding climate considerations into upstream support, project advice and capacity building assistance, this programme contributes to the European Union's ambition of achieving climate neutrality and ensuring that infrastructure is resilient to climate change.

One of the key areas of support involves developing national climate-proofing guidance, in line with the **Common Provisions Regulation**, tailored to each country's needs and priorities. This ensures that infrastructure projects are designed with long-term climate resilience in mind.

JASPERS also offers capacity-building programmes and knowledge-sharing activities that empower stakeholders to make informed decisions and take meaningful climate action towards a more sustainable future.

Finally, the programme assists EU countries in applying the "Do No Significant Harm" principle to EU-funded investments, offering guidance on how to incorporate this principle into project guidelines and funding calls.

- In Romania, Bulgaria and Greece, the Project Advisory Support Service Agreement (**PASSA**) provides technical advice to integrate climate resilience and sustainability into investment projects. It also ensures compliance with EU regulations, promotes resource efficiency and enables long-term environmental and financial sustainability in sectors like health, energy and regional development.
- In the energy sector, the Technical Assistance for Regions Undergoing a Green Energy Transition (**TARGET**) assists EU coal, peat and oil shale regions with the identification and preparation of clean energy and energy efficiency projects. It also provides free technical support on sustainable investments and transitioning local jobs away from fossil fuel-based activities.

Furthermore, through targeted advisory programmes like these, **EIB Advisory also plays a pivotal role in furthering the European Union's objectives for a just transition.**

One example is TARGET, which focuses on clean energy and energy efficiency to support a just transition and complements the Just Transition Mechanism. Another example is the advisory component of the **public sector loan facility** (the third pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism) approved in 2024. It helps regions reliant on carbon-intensive industries transition to sustainable, climate-neutral economies, and targets less developed regions or beneficiaries with limited administrative and technical capacity. These programmes support the European Union's commitment to a balanced and inclusive green transition.

EIB Advisory's **JASPERS** facility is central in implementing the **Just Transition Fund** (the first pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism). It helps EU members design and deliver projects that enable a fair and inclusive shift towards climate-neutral economies, particularly in regions dependent on coal and carbon-intensive industries. The focus is to make regions more diversified, sustainable and climate neutral. This includes promoting renewable energy sources and fostering green innovation, while also supporting job creation and social cohesion – ensuring that the transition not only reduces emissions, but also protects ecosystems and communities. In that respect, PASSA is also supporting Just Transition Fund projects in Greece with a focus on energy transition from fossil fuels, especially lignite.

Since 2021, JASPERS has embarked on 84 Just Transition Fund assignments across the European Union, with around 20 still active today. It works closely with European Commission country desks and national authorities, ensuring alignment with EU climate objectives and local development priorities. This initiative has supported Just Transition Fund projects in ten EU countries: Spain, Portugal, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and France. Among these, Czechia has seen the highest number of individual JASPERS assignments, reflecting the scale and impact of the transition in its coal regions.

2.5.2. Advisory services beyond the European Union

Beyond the European Union, sustainability is a key consideration across all the Bank's advisory services.

Much of the advisory work is delivered through multisector project identification, preparation and implementation advisory facilities, all of which also promote best practices in terms of environmental and social standards.

This includes the **JASPERS** mandate, which also advises project promoters outside the European Union on creating sustainable, climate-proof infrastructure. This includes support for **EU pre-accession countries**, Ukraine and the **Eastern Neighbourhood** under various dedicated mandates, including the JASPERS-managed Facility for Eastern Partnership Investment in Connectivity (**EPIC**), currently focused on Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

Another important multisector facility created in 2024 is the Global Gateway Infrastructure Project Delivery Facility. It will provide technical assistance for preparation and last-mile project delivery on EIB Global investments in sub-Saharan Africa, in all sectors of the EU's Global Gateway strategy – energy and environment, transport, digital, education and innovation, and health.

In addition to these broad facilities, there are many specific advisory programmes to help EIB Global clients improve the sustainability of their projects.

One group of these programmes focuses on urban development: the Africa Sustainable Cities Initiative (ASCI), the Financing Energy for Low-carbon Investment – Cities Advisory Facility (FELICITY), and the City Climate Finance Gap Fund, all help cities access more financing through better project planning and delivery.

Under the **City Climate Finance Gap Fund**, which the European Investment Bank runs together with the World Bank and the German development agency GIZ, the Bank has run nearly 70 technical assistance assignments, across 125 cities. Almost 30 of the assignments (in over 50 cities) were completed in 2024. In total, this fund has already brought around €1.4 billion of urban investments closer to financing, with some two-thirds of the prepared projects now receiving further support from other project preparation facilities or financiers.

Other key initiatives include the Demand-side management, Social Infrastructures, Renewables and Energy Efficiency (**DESIREE**) programme, which focuses on large scale renewable energy investments, as well as the Clean Oceans Initiative, under which technical assistance for the **Clean Oceans Initiative Project Identification and Preparation (COPIP)** programme was completed in 2024 after a five-year implementation period. This identified 20 projects and completed eight pre-feasibility studies and six feasibility studies for circular economy investments in Gabon, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania, Gambia and Togo.

The Bank also partners with other international institutions to deliver technical assistance. For example, a partnership with the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** enables EIB Global clients to receive support for the preparation and implementation of climate-resilient sustainable agriculture programmes in sub-Saharan Africa, a region particularly vulnerable to climate-related risks.

For private sector clients, the **Greening Financial Systems technical assistance programme** is a flagship programme in the Bank's sustainability-focused advisory offering. It enables central banks and financial intermediaries to embed sustainability into their financial flows, increasing the benefits of EIB Global financing for small businesses and helping reach the Paris Agreement goals. In Kenya, for example, the programme helped the country's central bank develop the first national green finance taxonomy and a climate risk disclosure framework, making it easier for banks to classify and assess green investments.



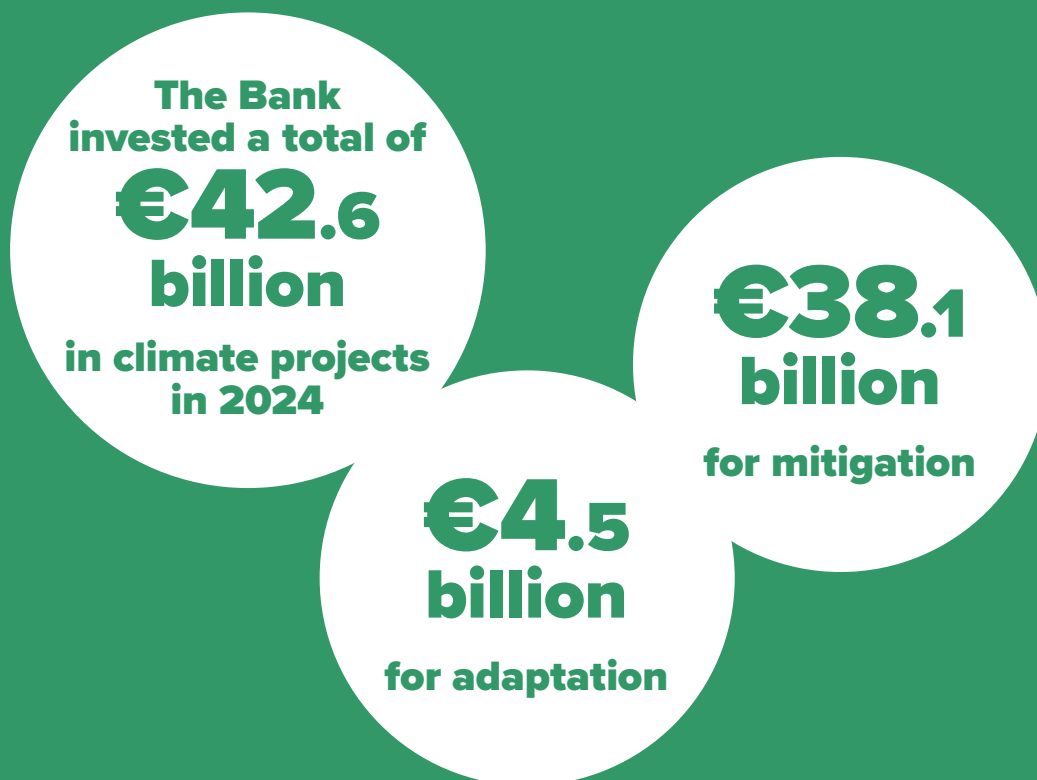
3. TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

3.1. KEY MESSAGES

Climate change remains one of the most pressing global challenges of our time, and its impact is increasingly visible across ecosystems, economies and societies. The extreme weather exacerbated by climate change is resulting in more frequent and intense heatwaves, droughts, floods and wildfires across the world. These events strain public health systems, disrupt agriculture and damage infrastructure. Vulnerable communities are often hit the hardest.

While the European Union has made notable progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding renewable energy, meeting EU climate and energy targets for 2030 and 2050 remain a significant challenge. More effort is also needed in the next five years and beyond to deliver on global mitigation and adaptation goals.

This urgency was further highlighted by the findings of the [first global stocktake](#), issued by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and endorsed by the European Union and other countries at COP28 in 2023. These findings showed that countries were making progress on the Paris Agreement goals, but that more action was needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C.



3.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

As the climate bank, the EIB Group plays a central role in supporting efforts to meet the climate targets set out in the [European Climate Law](#), which call for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels, and reaching climate neutrality by 2050. Furthermore, the EIB Group is supporting the [EU Adaptation Strategy](#) by enhancing resilience to climate change across Europe and globally.

3.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

The EIB Group is one of the world's main financiers of climate investment. In 2024, the Bank financed €42.6 billion of climate investments from its own resources, of which €4.7 billion went to investment beyond the European Union. Climate mitigation accounted for €38.1 billion (51% of total financing), including €13.8 billion for renewable energy, €8.2 billion for lower carbon transport and €7.3 billion for energy efficiency.

Of those investments, a record €4.5 billion was for adaptation, an increase of 68% from 2023. Climate adaptation represented 10.6% of climate lending in 2024. (For more information on climate action lending, including EIF financing of green investments, see Chapter 2, "Supporting the green transition").

The EIB Group includes signed investments in its annual carbon footprint calculation exercise, which details the total emissions generated from projects. Projects signed in 2024 were estimated to result in total absolute greenhouse gas emissions of 2.6 million tonnes of CO₂e per year. The overall reduced or avoided emissions from the same financing are estimated at 5.7 million tonnes of CO₂e per year. The Group also financed climate adaptation projects in the same period, which resulted in reduced flood risks for an estimated 2 million people.

3.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has developed and implemented a number of climate- and environment-related policies:

EIB Group:

- [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap](#)
- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)
- [The EIB Group PATH framework](#)

European Investment Bank:

- [EIB Climate Strategy](#)
- [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards \(Standard 5\)](#)
- [EIB Energy Lending Policy](#)
- [EIB Transport Lending Policy](#)
- [EIB water sector orientation](#)
- [The forestry policy, Forests at the heart of sustainable development](#)
- [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#)
- [The EIB Climate Adaptation Plan](#)

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability \(CA&ES\) guidelines](#)
- [EIF Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Principles](#)

3.1.4. Illustration of projects financed

- The Bank approved a €1 billion loan to rebuild public and private buildings in the Italian region of Ischia that were severely damaged by the 2017 earthquake and 2022 landslide.
- The Bank is investing €93 million in the [Copenhagen Growth Markets Fund II](#), which funds greenfield renewable energy installations, predominantly in high-growth middle-income markets and in selected EU members.
- The EIF invested €350 million in [Kembara](#), a Spanish fund supporting deep-tech and climate-focused firms under the European Tech Champions Initiative.

3.2. POLICIES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

This chapter focuses on policies and actions related to the EIB Group's financing activities. Policies and actions related to its own, corporate operations, such as the [EMAS Environmental Policy](#), are detailed in Chapter 3.5.

3.2.1. Climate policy at the EIB Group

As the climate bank, the EIB Group is a global leader in climate and environment finance, and one of the world's largest multilateral issuers of green and sustainability bonds.

The following policy and standards framework guides the EIB Group's investments:

- The [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#)¹ sets out how the Group will support the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#) and the [European Climate Law](#), including the [Paris Agreement](#), and deliver on the new climate and environment targets approved by the EIB Board of Directors in 2019. The Group will:
 - gradually increase the share of the Bank's annual financing for climate action and environmental sustainability to exceed 50% by 2025 and beyond;
 - support €1 trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability between 2021 and 2030 at the EIB Group level;
 - align all new EIB Group operations with the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement from 2021².
- The [EIB Climate Strategy](#), upon which the Climate Bank Roadmap was built, was [first published in 2015](#) and revised in 2020. It sets out the Bank's mission and vision for dealing with climate change, strategically aligning the Bank with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal and its adaptation objective.
- Sectoral policies and orientations supplement the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025, detailing how the Group can add value in key sectors for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Standard 5 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) ensures that the climate considerations contained in the Climate Bank Roadmap are embedded in requirements for Bank clients.

3.2.2. Climate Bank Roadmap

3.2.2.1. Background

The [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#)³ provides a policy and operational framework that guides the EIB Group's support for the [European Green Deal](#) and the [European Climate Law](#), including the [Paris Agreement](#). These goals include helping to limit temperature increases to 1.5° Celsius (compared to pre-industrial levels) by deploying the Group's full range of finance, blending and advisory products to decarbonise economies in the European Union and beyond.

The Climate Bank Roadmap sets out how the EIB Group plans to deliver on the new climate and environment targets approved by the EIB Board of Directors in 2019 – notably on green finance and Paris alignment. Applicable to the whole EIB Group, the roadmap includes policies for financed

1. The EIB Group published Phase 2 of the Climate Bank Roadmap in October 2025. Phase 2 covers 2026-2030.

2. This work is part of the wider 2019 ambition to align all EIB Group financing activities with the goals and principles of the Paris Agreement.

3. The EIB Group published Phase 2 of the Climate Bank Roadmap in October 2025. Phase 2 covers 2026-2030.

operations and internal activities (including treasury), and applies to operations in and beyond the European Union. The Climate Bank Roadmap includes several more detailed implementing frameworks – either in it or published subsequently – which are presented in more detail in Chapter 3.3, “Climate change actions and implementing frameworks” and Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

The Climate Bank Roadmap was approved by the boards of directors of the Bank and the EIF in November 2020.

3.2.2.2. Climate priorities

The [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) provides an operational plan that reflects the 2019 decision of the EIB Board of Directors to organise new climate and environment goals around four key themes:

- Accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by investing and mobilising significant volumes of green finance, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Ensure a just transition for all, so that no people or places are left behind in the transition.
- Align all new EIB Group operations with the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement from 2021.
- Build consistent strategies that ensure a cohesive approach is used across the EIB Group’s policy framework; its transparency, accountability and quality assurance processes; and related institutional support structures.

In addition to presenting information on the Climate Bank Roadmap in this report, the EIB Group publishes annual [Climate Bank Roadmap progress reports](#), which provide a more detailed update on implementation of the roadmap.

See Chapter 1.3.3, “Delivering on the strategic roadmap” for a presentation of the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025 and of the joint multilateral development bank framework on Paris alignment.

Accelerating the green transition

Chapter 2 of this report, “Supporting the green transition,” outlines the 2024 results in the first theme of the Climate Bank Roadmap, including performance against key targets. In addition, in 2021 the Bank published [The EIB Climate Adaptation Plan](#), establishing a new target of increasing climate adaptation financing to 15% of total climate financing by 2025 (see Chapter 3.3.2.2, “The EIB Climate Adaptation Plan”).

Ensuring a just transition for all

The EIB Group works to ensure that no people or places are left behind in the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient societies. In 2022, the EIB Group published its comprehensive proposal in support of the EU [Just Transition Mechanism](#), a key part of the [Sustainable Europe Investment Plan](#) assisting the EU regions most affected by decarbonisation.

Building on its experience in supporting the Just Transition Mechanism and the [MDB Just Transition High-Level Principles](#), EIB Global [published its approach](#) to supporting a just transition and just resilience at [COP28](#) in 2023 in Dubai:

- The EIB Group promotes a just transition by helping build inclusive, sustainable societies in the regions most affected by efforts to decarbonise economies.
- It helps communities to better resist the impact of climate change by developing inclusive climate adaptation actions in the countries and for the people most affected by climate change.

Recognising how climate change, climate action, and social and economic development are intrinsically interwoven across the globe, the Climate Bank Roadmap places focus on gender equality, conflict and fragility, climate-induced migration and forced displacement, and a just transition globally (for more details, see Chapter 8, “Supporting communities and cohesion” and Chapter 9, “Boosting quality employment,” as well as the [EIB Group 2023 Climate Bank Roadmap Progress Report](#)).

Supporting Paris-aligned operations

Under the comprehensive alignment framework presented in the Climate Bank Roadmap and subsequent developments, the EIB Group committed to aligning new financing, advisory and treasury operations with the temperature and resilience goals of the Paris Agreement from 2021 onwards.

The alignment framework, described in detail in Chapter 3.3, “Climate change actions and implementing frameworks,” is applied per investment and per counterparty.

Building strategic coherence and accountability

To deliver the first three actions of the Climate Bank Roadmap – accelerating the transition through green finance, ensuring a just transition for all and aligning new operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement – the EIB Group needs a consistent and coordinated approach. Set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap, this approach is based on three cross-cutting dimensions:

- policies that establish how climate-related work fits into the broader context of sustainable finance and environmental and social sustainability;
- transparency, accountability and quality assurance;
- institutional support for EIB Group activities.

Egypt: Funds for green industry

EIB Global will provide €135 million for the [Green Sustainable Industry programme](#), to help Egyptian firms comply with the [EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#) when the carbon levy is imposed from 2026 onwards. Paired with a €30 million EU grant and support from [Agence Française de Développement](#), this financing is expected to unlock nearly €271 million in climate-focused business investment. The investment will help Egypt transition to a low-carbon and more climate and environmentally friendly economy.





Italy: €1 billion to rebuild Ischia after earthquake

The Bank approved a €1 billion loan to rebuild public and private buildings in the Italian region of Ischia that were severely damaged by the 2017 earthquake and 2022 landslide. The first tranche of €150 million was signed in November 2024. The funds will help finance operations to renovate private residential housing, schools and public buildings, as well as water infrastructure and roads. All buildings renovated with EIB resources will adhere to the highest energy efficiency standards. Financing will pay for projects to shore up mountain slopes, restore riverbeds and build new structures to mitigate climate risks.

France: €30 million to protect services and infrastructure from climate change

The EIF committed €30 million to Wind II, a fund focusing on early-stage tech companies developing climate adaptation solutions for essential services and infrastructure. Wind II will invest €500 000 to €5 million in around 30 early-stage French and EU tech companies whose operations respect the environment and which provide cutting-edge solutions to help essential services and infrastructure adapt to climate change.



Spain: €350 million to scale EU deep tech and climate champions

The EIF invested €350 million in Kembara, a Spanish deep tech and climate growth fund, under the European Tech Champions Initiative. Kembara will make equity investments in EU companies, predominantly in Germany, Spain, France and Sweden. The EIF is the anchor investor in Kembara, playing a catalytic role in helping the fund attract additional investors to reach its target volume of €1 billion.



3.2.3. The EIB Climate Strategy

The [EIB Climate Strategy](#) provides the foundation for the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#). It was first published in 2015, and revised in 2020. It sets out the Bank's strategic mission on addressing climate change: "to play a leading role amongst financial institutions in supporting the finance needed to achieve the worldwide commitments to limit global warming to 1.5° C, to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050."

The EIB Climate Strategy guides the Bank's medium- to long-term climate actions, focusing on three strategic areas:

- amplifying the impact of the Bank's climate financing;
- building resilience to climate change;
- further integrating climate change considerations across all of the Bank's standards, methods and processes.

With regard to sector lending policies and orientations, covered below in section 3.2.4, the EIB Climate Strategy states that "The development of new sector policies, or updating of existing ones when triggered by material changes in economic conditions, policy or regulation, will of course be underpinned by the state of EU policy at the time. It will also refer to the longer-term horizon of transition pathways towards climate resilient development and a maximum global temperature rise of 1.5°C, and will take into account the most recent scientific knowledge and available best practice, in accordance with the goals and principles of the Paris Agreement."

3.2.4. Sector-specific policies and orientations

The Bank applies sector-specific policies and orientations that seek to ensure its investments contribute to the green transition, supporting the broader cross-sectoral ambitions set out in the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#). Since 2021, climate-related eligibility criteria have been defined under the Paris alignment framework of the Climate Bank Roadmap, meaning the focus of sector policies and orientations has been on increasing positive impacts in these sectors.

- For the energy sector, the Bank introduced the [EIB Energy Lending Policy](#) in 2019 and updated it in 2023. The policy ends new financing for unabated fossil fuel energy projects.
- The Bank approved the [Transport Lending Policy 2022](#) for a safe, secure, accessible, green and efficient mobility system.
- It introduced the [EIB water sector orientation](#) in 2023, outlining its strategic focus in this critical sector, including on climate resilience and emissions reductions.
- The policy [Forests at the heart of sustainable development](#) sets out how the Bank is strengthening support for long-term investments in the forestry sector, helping to deliver on key climate and environment goals.

3.2.5. EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy and Environmental and Social Standards – Standard 5

The [EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) defines how the EIB Group fully integrates environmental, climate and social considerations across its activities and processes.

Standard 5 on climate change of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) promotes alignment of Bank projects with the [Paris Agreement](#) and the [sustainable finance Action Plan](#). It stipulates that, where applicable, climate change mitigation and adaptation must be explicitly

addressed by project promoters as part of the decision-making process. The standard may be applicable to direct finance operations, and the specific requirements to be addressed are determined during the environmental impact assessment and the environmental and social impact assessment, and the Bank's appraisal, based on the nature and scope of the project.

Specific requirements under Standard 5 include:

- assessment and minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions;
- physical climate risk assessment and minimisation;
- climate-related analysis as part of economic analysis.

For more information on the EIB Group environmental and social sustainability framework contained in the European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards and the EIF's [Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#), see Chapter 1, "General Information."



3.3. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORKS

3.3.1. Background

The [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) contains several operational frameworks with detailed methodologies and tools to reach goals for climate action and environmental sustainability finance, as well as Paris alignment. Further frameworks have been published subsequently.

This chapter reviews the key actions – including instituting these frameworks – taken by the EIB Group to accelerate the green transition, improve Paris alignment and manage climate risk.

3.3.2. Accelerating the green transition

3.3.2.1. Climate action financing

For details on EIB Group financing and advisory activities dealing with climate change, see Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.” This includes an assessment of the climate and green financing performance in 2024, progress towards targets, and the methodology for tracking such financing.

3.3.2.2. The EIB Climate Adaptation Plan

The [EIB Climate Adaptation Plan](#) (published in October 2021) is part of the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) work to accelerate the green transition, and a response to the 2021 [EU Adaptation Strategy](#). It builds on the EIB Group approach to climate adaptation and resilience outlined in the Climate Bank Roadmap, and sets the additional target of growing the share of climate action devoted to adaptation to 15% of total climate finance by 2025.

The plan also increases Bank support for vulnerable countries and communities, and provides more access to advisory services and technical assistance to increase climate resilience in the public and private sectors. Through this initiative, the Bank endorses the EU Adaptation Strategy for smarter, faster and more systemic adaptation within and beyond the European Union.

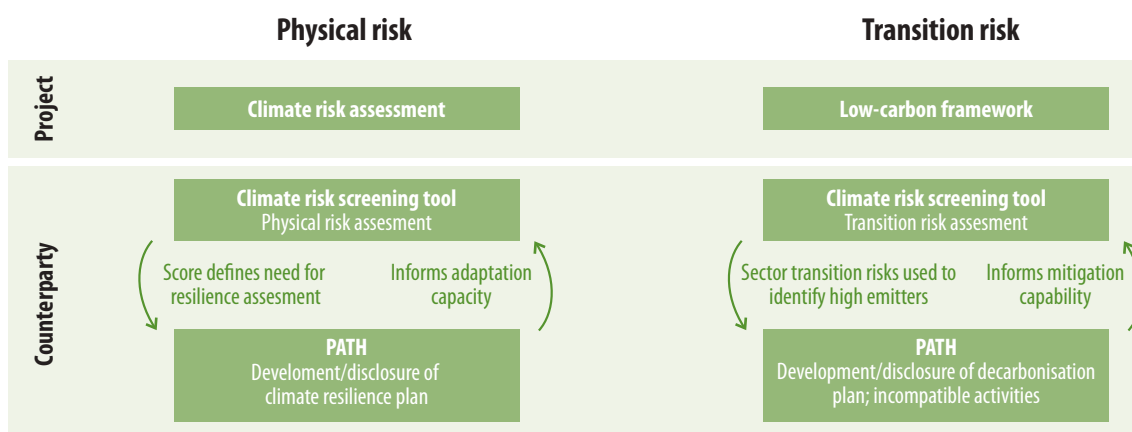
3.3.3. Managing climate risks and Paris alignment

The EIB Group has several standards, tools and processes to implement the policies around climate risk in financing. It applies these at multiple levels:

- the financed operation (direct project finance or intermediated finance);
- the financed entity;
- the wider investment portfolio, including previously financed projects and counterparties.

Tools and processes for climate risk management at the project and entity levels also form an integral part of the Paris alignment framework in the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#). Furthermore, they fit into broader EIB Group investment eligibility criteria, which also address environmental and social risks.

FIGURE 1: EIB GROUP CLIMATE RISK TOOLS AND PROCESSES FOR PROJECTS AND FIRMS



Source: TCFD Report 2023

3.3.3.1. Actions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation – Paris alignment at the project level

Projects directly financed by the Bank go through an in-depth sustainability due diligence process to ensure that they are low-emissions and climate-resilient projects. The Bank’s low-carbon framework is applied, addressing climate change mitigation goals, and an assessment system that focuses on the context-specific physical climate risk of the operation. In addition, Standard 5 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) sets out promoters’ responsibilities in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Similarly to directly financed operations, intermediated operations need to comply with the low carbon framework and other relevant eligibility criteria of the EIB Group. During a project’s appraisal and due diligence process, various departments check each financial intermediary’s procedures for complying with EIB Group policies. They also assess the intermediary’s climate risk or, in the case of risk-sharing instruments, the estimated climate risk of the future portfolio.

Low-carbon framework

The EIB Group’s low-carbon framework was outlined in Annex 2 of the Climate Bank Roadmap and has been updated and republished as a standalone document in the [EIB Group Paris alignment framework – Low carbon: Version 1.1](#). It defines how the Group aligns new financing with the Paris Agreement’s climate mitigation goals.

The low-carbon framework has two parts. The first is classified by sector, listing which activities the Bank may support and which it will not. The second is classified by product, explaining how the framework applies across different EIB Group product types.

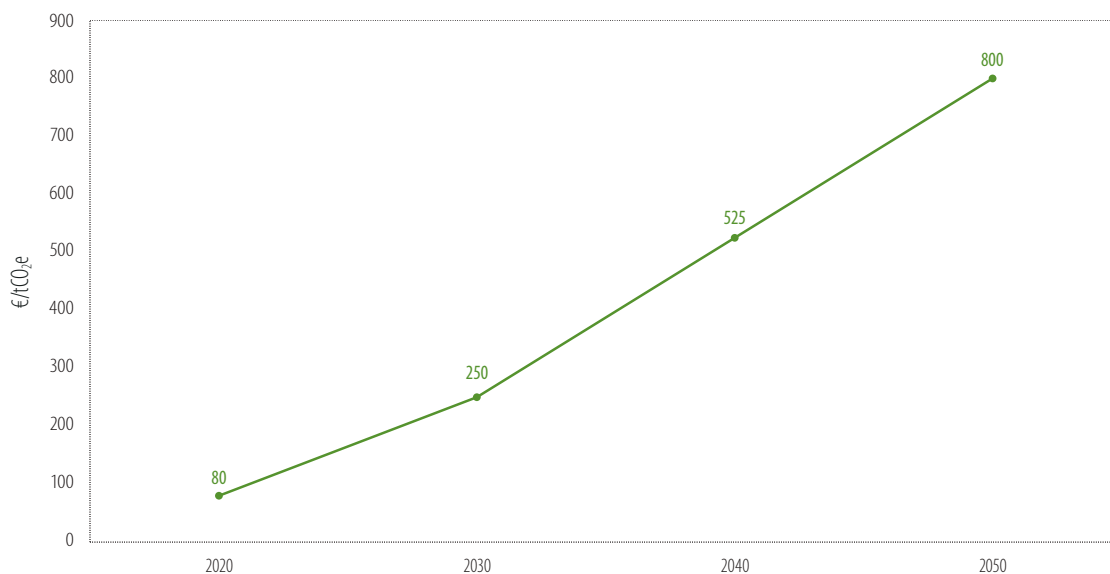
The low-carbon framework was updated at the time of the [mid-term review of the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap](#), to include the integration of relevant “Do No Significant Harm” criteria published in the EU taxonomy Climate Delegated Act.

Shadow cost of carbon

The Bank has been using a shadow cost of carbon for direct finance projects that have undergone an economic assessment since the 1990s. As part of the sustainability due diligence process, the Bank conducts a separate economic appraisal of investment projects to assess the costs and benefits to society as a whole (see Chapter 1, “General information”). This takes into account the resources used by the project (human, technological or natural) – in some cases using shadow prices, including for greenhouse gas emissions – and gauges the value generated by the project to determine whether there are overall gains for society.

To align with the Paris Agreement, the Bank reviewed the latest modelling evidence at the time of developing the Climate Bank Roadmap and agreed to increase these values. As shown in the graph below, the shadow cost of emitting one tonne of carbon equivalent will rise to €250 by 2030, and to €800 by 2050 (as measured in 2016 euros). Factoring in the shadow cost of carbon is thus another important part of seeking to ensure the alignment of new financing with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

FIGURE 2: EIB SHADOW COST OF CARBON (IN 2016 EUROS), 2020-2050



Source: Climate Bank Roadmap

Climate risk assessment

In 2019, the Bank introduced a climate risk assessment system for physical climate risks – a bespoke business process fully integrated within the Bank’s technical due diligence of direct operations. The climate risk assessment system starts with an automated initial screening based on conservative physical climate risk data for the country and industry of an operation. If this screening suggests elevated risk, the Bank performs a second screening, using climate service tools which identify vulnerabilities at the project location. This is based on climate projections and geographic information systems.

If there is material potential physical climate risk, the Bank will work with the client to obtain further information, and may ask the client to do a climate risk and vulnerability assessment (possibly with Bank support) and incorporate adaptation measures.

At the end of the climate risk assessment process, the Bank estimates the residual physical climate risk level for the project. This assessment enables the Bank to monitor the portfolio of projects, improve the understanding of sector- and geography-specific physical climate risks in its operations, and support its clients in managing physical climate risks where necessary.

EIF approach to climate-related risk at operation level

The climate risk model used at the EIF is purely quantitative and captures physical and transition risks. Similar to the initial screening process used by the Bank, the model takes a “look through” approach, breaking the underlying investment down into different sectoral and geographical exposures.

3.3.3.2. Actions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation - Paris alignment at counterparty level

Since the beginning of 2022, the EIB Group has applied [The EIB Group PATH framework](#) to support the green transition of its counterparties. The Group thus goes beyond the projects it finances, to consider the wider activities of its borrowers.

The overarching aim is to engage with counterparties that are aligning, or are willing to align, with the goals of the Paris Agreement. The PATH framework applies to corporate clients (those under private law and those under public law, such as public sector entities) and financial intermediaries.

For businesses, the PATH framework focuses on clients that operate in high-emitting sectors and in a context of high vulnerability to physical climate risk. It supports these counterparties to decarbonise their activities and strengthen their resilience to the impact of climate change, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

For financial intermediaries, the PATH framework focuses on large institutions, requiring them to make public disclosures in line with the recommendations of the [Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures \(TCFD\)](#). Financial intermediaries reporting under [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2453 of 30 November 2022](#) are deemed to meet PATH requirements, as its requirements are closely linked to the recommendations of the TCFD.

To help borrowers address shortcomings in their climate transition efforts and comply with PATH requirements, the Bank provides free technical assistance. This support is aimed at helping counterparties to develop the required plans or TCFD-aligned reporting.

For treasury investments, which do not lend themselves to counterparty engagement, the EIB Group has developed a methodology specifically for financial markets based on the PATH framework principles.

As the regulatory landscape is evolving fast, the EIB Group has revised the framework in line with EU legislation and lessons learnt from operations.

The first update in October 2022 included an additional paragraph (4.29) in support of the [REPowerEU](#) plan. The version published in November 2023 reflects changes based on the [mid-term review of the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap](#). These changes include an option (where justified) to extend the deadlines to meet the reporting requirements of the PATH framework, the application of the REPowerEU exemption to countries beyond the European Union, additional clarifications about not engaging in activities deemed incompatible, and the recognition that reporting in line with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2453 is deemed compliant with the PATH framework requirements.



3.3.3.3. Actions for assessing and managing climate-related risks at the portfolio level

The EIB Group has taken several measures to assess, measure and manage climate risks at the portfolio level:

- **Climate risk screening tool:** fully integrated into the lending process and IT platform, it has been used to perform climate risk assessments for the EIB Group's counterparties since 2020.
- **Climate risk reporting:** monitoring and regular reporting on the climate risk at the portfolio level.
- **Risk appetite framework:** has included climate risk indicators (monitored quarterly) since 2022.
- **Capital and liquidity adequacy assessment:** in the risk identification process, assessing climate and environmental risk as a category of non-financial risk through the outcomes of forward-looking scenarios.
- **Stress testing and sensitivity analysis:** performing climate risk stress testing or sensitivity analysis.

Climate risk screening tool

The EIB Group uses output from the climate risk screening tool to map and monitor climate risks across the portfolio, as part of regular reporting. The tool also provides the basis for climate risk sensitivity analysis, which helps the Group shape its climate risk management strategies. It has been adapted to each of the Bank's main credit segments and to the EIF's equity and debt portfolios.

Starting in July 2020, the climate risk screening tool was rolled out to the lending and investment portfolios, and was later expanded to the treasury and financial collateral portfolios. Climate risk assessment is now performed for new counterparties at the appraisal stage, and is updated on a yearly basis, typically as part of the annual counterparty review process.

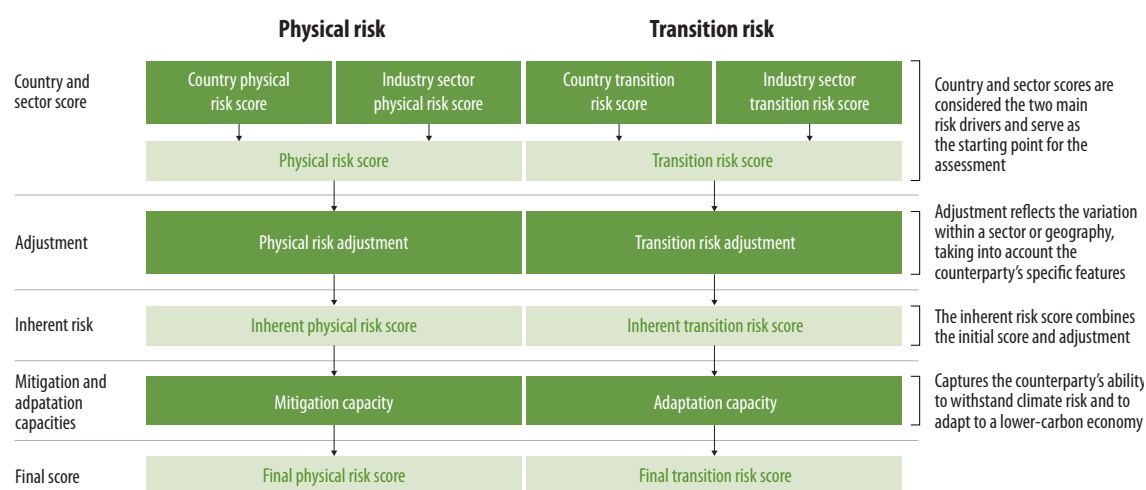
At the EIF, climate risk assessment is performed for new transactions at the appraisal stage based on the expected portfolio, and is updated on a quarterly basis once final beneficiary loans/investments are added to portfolios.

The climate risk screening tool is reviewed regularly, and was recently upgraded to integrate internally produced industry physical risk scores. Further developments are planned for 2025/2026, including implementing external datasets. Work is also in progress to integrate climate risk factors as qualitative risk indicators in the internal rating models.

Methodology

The methodology captures the physical risk, transition risk and mitigation/adaptation capacity of each counterparty, providing a climate score from one (low risk) to five (high risk). The scores are classed as low, medium or high climate risk. Figure 3 shows the structure of the climate risk screening tool.

FIGURE 3: THE CLIMATE RISK SCREENING TOOL FOR CORPORATE CREDIT



Source: EIB Group

While the logic underpinning climate risk assessment is consistent across all non-sovereign credit segments, tailored assessments are applied to corporates, financial institutions, public sector entities, sub-sovereign public authorities, project finance and (indirect) equity, to cover all counterparty types across EIB Group portfolios.

The country physical and transition risk scores, and the industry transition and physical risk scores, are calculated internally using the methodology described below.

Climate risk regional scores

Alongside the climate risk screening tool highlighted above, in 2020 the EIB Group developed an in-house model to assess the exposure of more than 180 countries to physical risk and transition risk. The model is the result of in-depth research by the Bank's economists and builds on the most recent literature, drawing on various public sources of data. The scores are updated on a yearly basis, and are adjusted by country experts, if necessary. The resulting climate risk country scores are then used for sovereign counterparties as the final risk scores, and for other counterparties as the country anchor scores for the climate risk screening tool.

To assess physical risk, indicators have been developed to capture the impact of:

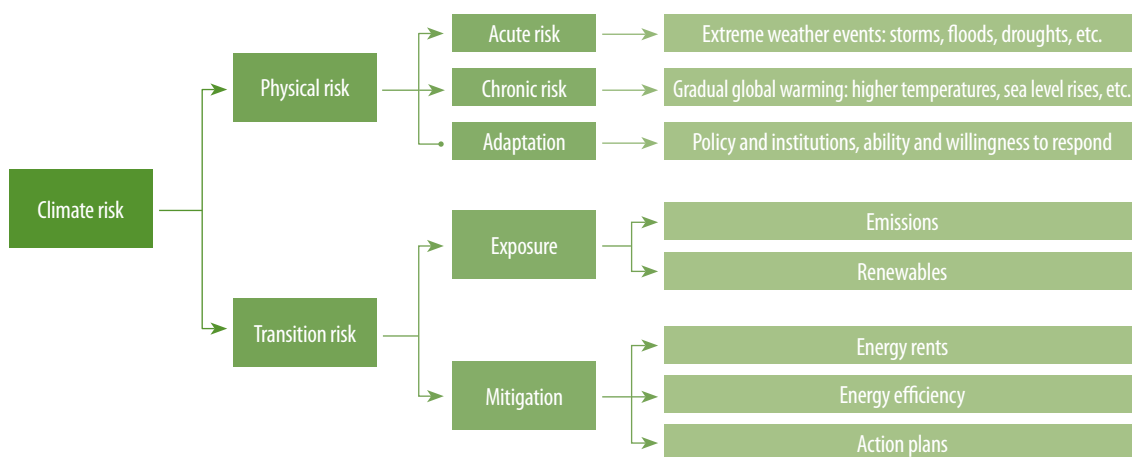
- acute risks, such as the damage caused by hydrological events (floods and landslides), meteorological events (extreme temperatures, fog and storms) and climatological events (droughts, wildfires and glacial lake outburst floods);
- chronic risks, including exposure to rising sea levels and the impact of changes in average temperatures or precipitation patterns (on agriculture, infrastructure and productivity).

Costs or losses due to these risks are expressed in terms of gross domestic product. The model then considers the country’s adaptation capacity, assessed through fiscal strength and the quality of governance.

To assess transition risk at the country level, a composite indicator has been developed to capture:

- exposure to carbon emissions, based on the importance of fossil fuel rents in the economy and overall dependence on carbon-emitting activities;
- mitigation activities, based on the deployment of renewables, the pursuit of energy efficiency policies and future climate action commitments.

FIGURE 4: CLIMATE RISK COUNTRY SCORES AND UNDERLYING INDICATORS



Source: EIB Group

The model places these indicators on a common scale (normalisation), allowing them to be partially compensated against one another, and selects the appropriate weights of the various climate risk dimensions based on the literature and econometric analysis.

Lastly, the assessment evaluates the current state and policy effectiveness of each country in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and becoming less energy intensive over the past five years. It also evaluates each country’s distance from the optimal global path for meeting Paris Agreement objectives.

Climate risk industry scores

The EIB Group has also developed a methodology for scoring industries according to their exposure to transition risk and physical risk.

This methodology uses the Bank’s risk sector classification, which includes 30 risk sectors and 65 sub-sectors. Within these sub-sectors, industry experts have identified more granular industry segments exposed to the same transition risks.

These segments are scored – taking into account their current emission levels, their ability to decarbonise, their exposure to regulatory and technology risk and their resilience to potential changes in consumer behaviour. The resulting climate risk sector scores are then used as sector anchor scores for the screening tool.

The methodology is based on a mix of publicly available data and expert judgment. In view of the rapid developments in regulation, technology and market risk, the assessment is reviewed annually.

Industry physical risk factors were integrated into the climate risk screening tool in 2024. That assessment is based on a matrix combining qualitative and quantitative assessments at highly granular level of industry classification.

Assessing and managing climate-related risks for treasury activities

Since 2022, treasury investments have respected the Paris Agreement goals laid out in the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#). Treasury activities refer to the management of financial portfolios with different instruments and maturities to ensure that the Bank and the EIF hold sufficient liquidity to meet their lending and financing commitments. As part of the Climate Bank Roadmap, environmental factors have been included in the EIB Group's long-term treasury investments since mid-2020.

The EIB Group has developed a methodology adapted to financial markets under the principles of the [EIB Group PATH framework](#) that applies to treasury investments.

Investments in green bonds follow the same methodology. Such investments are only possible in instruments complying with the [Green Bond Principles](#) of the International Capital Market Association, or the [European green bond standard](#).

Climate risk reporting

The EIB Group has a reporting framework to track its climate risk exposure, based on the output of the climate risk screening tool. This framework includes:

- a quarterly synthesis report, with information on climate risk exposures across the EIB Group portfolio, which is part of the risk reports provided to the [Management Committee](#), the Bank's [Board of Directors](#) and the [Audit Committee](#);
- a more comprehensive climate risk report produced twice a year, giving an overview of physical and transition risk exposure in the EIB Group portfolio and of new operations – including operations under mandate – with breakdowns and deep analysis of the credit segment, sector, geography and credit rating, to better inform the decision-making processes.

Risk appetite framework

The EIB Group's risk appetite framework formalises the level of risk that the Group is willing to take as part of its activities and objectives. The framework covers the major categories of financial risk (including credit, liquidity, market and treasury risks) and non-financial risk (including operational, communication and technology, conduct and compliance, and reputational risks).

In 2022, the EIB Group introduced new indicators for monitoring climate risk from a financial and non-financial perspective, and began reporting on them in 2023. These indicators are based on the output of the climate risk screening tool and are reported on a quarterly basis.

Capital and liquidity adequacy assessment

As part of the EIB Group's best banking practice framework, an internal capital adequacy assessment process has been created to ensure that the Group identifies and is protected against all risks to which it is exposed, including credit, market, operational and other risks.

Climate change risk is considered in the risk identification process. Where relevant, outcomes from climate scenario analyses and stress tests are reflected in the assessment documentation. As climate risk is further integrated into the risk framework, the EIB Group will assess the potential need to set aside more capital to cover climate damage scenarios.

The EIB Group has also created an internal liquidity adequacy assessment process as part of its best banking practice framework. It recognises the impact of climate change and the environment on the Group’s business, including transition effects and/or physical risks. Sensitivity analyses are used to assess the materiality of climate risk from a liquidity risk perspective.

Stress testing and sensitivity analysis

Climate sensitivity analyses were initiated in 2020, using the output of the climate risk screening tool. The EIB Group is not supervised by an external supervisory banking authority but it aims to meet the [European Central Bank expectations with respect to climate and environment-related stress testing](#).

3.3.3.4. Overview of portfolio climate risks

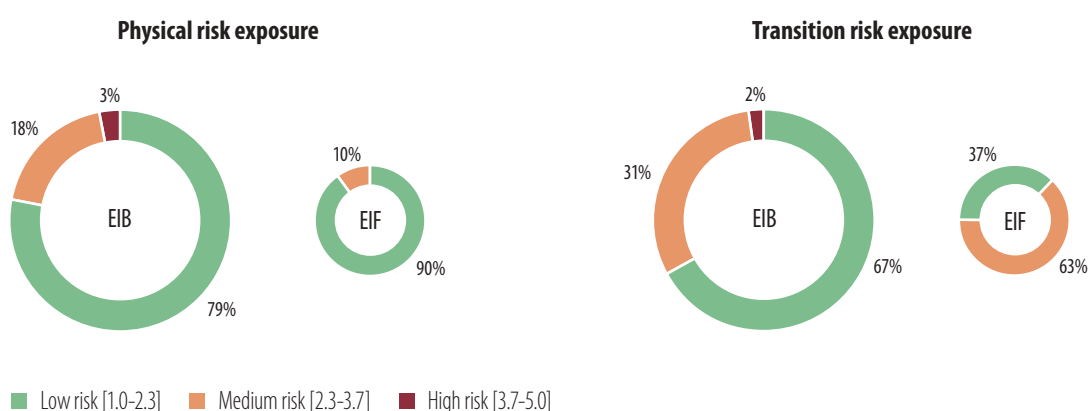
In its assessment framework, the EIB Group considers the impact climate change will have on its financing activities across different time periods.

To different degrees and across different periods, climate change may affect the various traditional banking risk categories that the EIB Group is exposed to. Credit risk is considered to be one of the risk categories most affected by climate change.

From the credit risk perspective, the EIB Group periodically analyses its portfolio’s credit exposure to transition and physical risks, based on the output of the internally developed climate risk screening tool. In 2024, approximately 90% of the Group’s exposure was screened using the tool.

Figure 5 shows the overall exposure of the Group portfolio to climate risks at the end of the year. The scores are classed as low, medium or high climate risk.

FIGURE 5: PHYSICAL AND TRANSITION RISK EXPOSURE

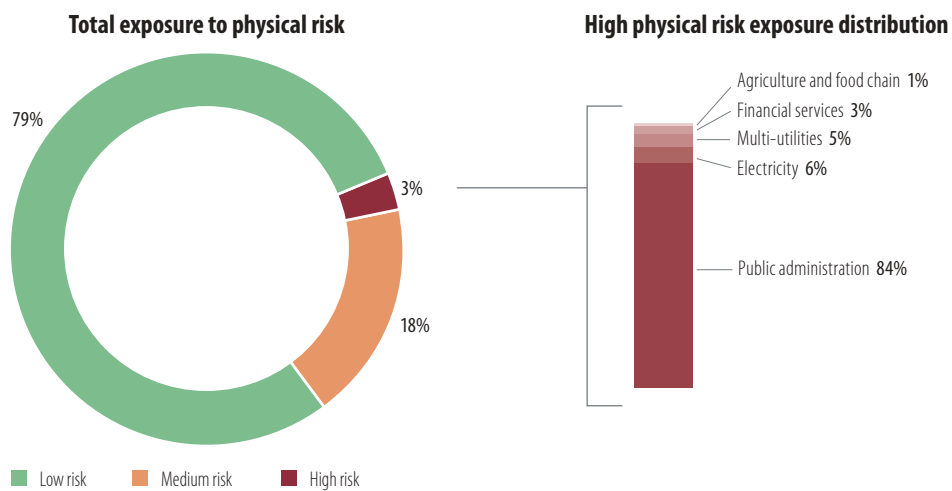


Source: EIB Group

According to the screening tool, in five to ten years a small number of EIB Group counterparties will have high exposure to physical risks. Exposure to transition risk is higher due to the Group’s traditional focus on energy and infrastructure activities, as reflected by the much higher share of exposure with medium risk.

Exposure to these sectors will remain high given the climate bank’s role in supporting the decarbonisation of critical industries. Under the **PATH framework**, the Bank nevertheless ensures that corporate counterparties either have transition and/or resilience plans in place depending on risk screening, or develop and publish such plans within a given timeframe to mitigate the risk. (For more information about the PATH Framework, including how the Bank offers technical assistance to counterparties to develop these plans, see section 3.3.3.2. of this report.)

FIGURE 6: EIB GROUP EXPOSURE TO PHYSICAL RISK AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH RISKS, BY SECTOR

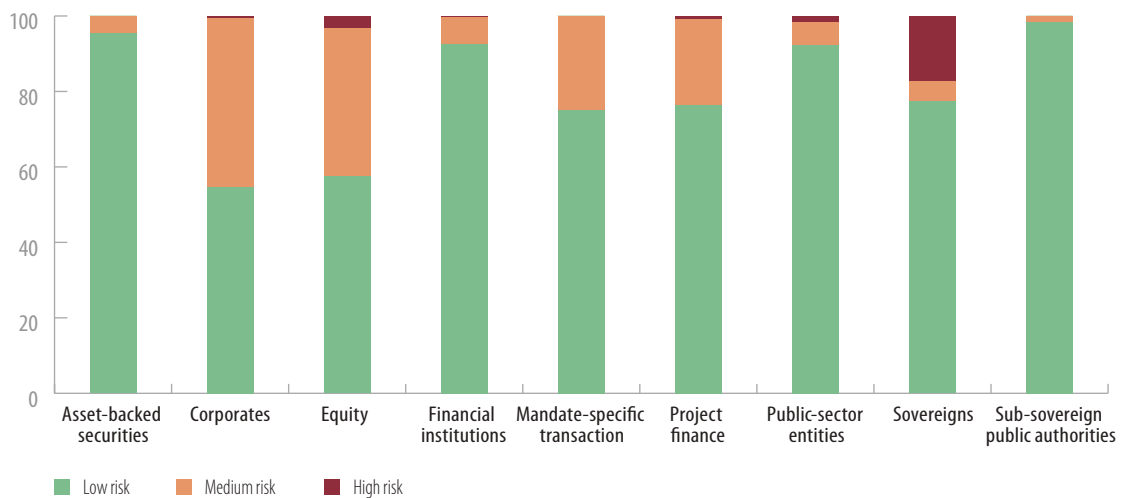


Source: EIB Group

Overall, the EIB Group’s exposure to physical risk is relatively low. In fact, in the short to medium term, physical risk is expected to have a low material impact on the Group’s risk profile. In the long term, however, the exposure to high physical risk in the portfolio is expected to increase if global warming continues.

Most of the EIB Group’s high physical risk exposure is concentrated in the public administration sector. This reflects the physical risk of countries beyond the European Union, which tends to be higher.

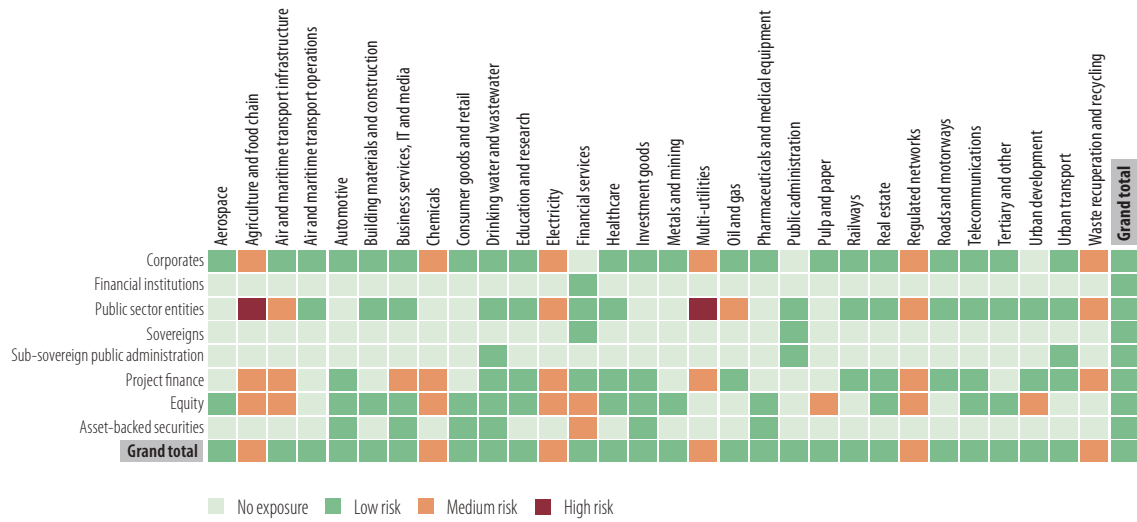
FIGURE 7: EIB GROUP EXPOSURE TO PHYSICAL RISK (IN %), BY CREDIT SEGMENT



Source: EIB Group

One reason for the large share of low-risk areas for sub-sovereign public administrations is that EU countries (to which the EIB Group is highly exposed) generally have a high capacity to mitigate physical risk. Changing how a number of countries are assessed has resulted in a higher risk exposure score for sovereign credit, shifting the score from the cusp into a higher risk category even though the change was not significant. The corporate and project finance credit segments are more likely to present medium risk exposure due to their exposure to infrastructure sectors vulnerable to the physical effects of climate change, like regulated networks, transport and electricity.

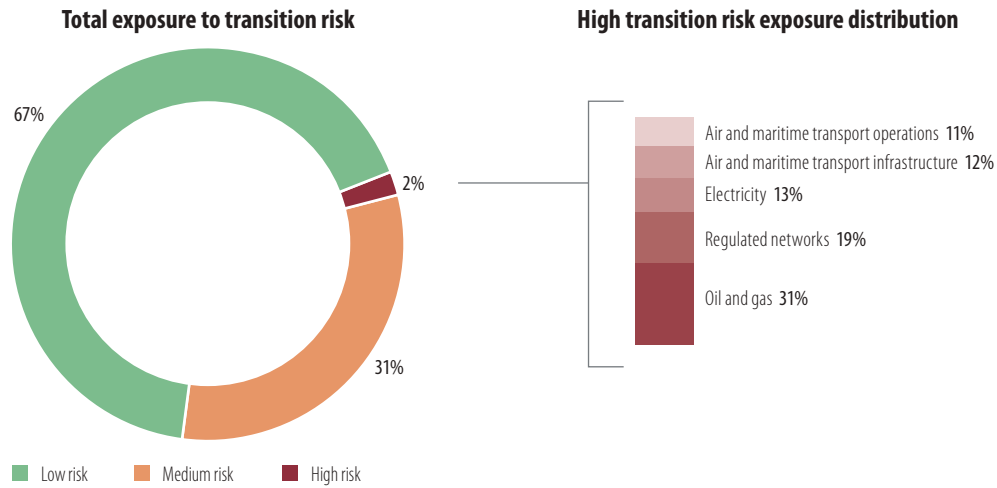
FIGURE 8: THE EIB GROUP'S EXPOSURE TO PHYSICAL RISKS, BY SECTOR AND CREDIT SEGMENT



Source: EIB Group



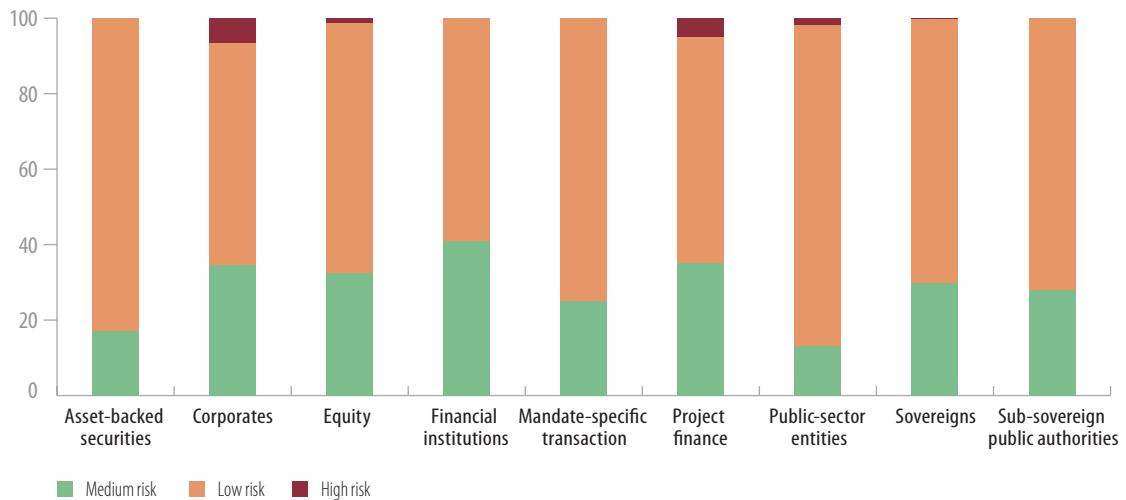
FIGURE 9: EIB GROUP EXPOSURE TO TRANSITION RISKS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH RISKS, BY SECTOR



Source: EIB Group

In the short to medium term, the EIB Group’s portfolio will be more sensitive to transition risks. The distribution of high risk exposure by sector shows that most of the risk is concentrated in oil and gas, regulated networks, electricity, and air and maritime transport infrastructure. The EIB Group’s exposure to the oil and gas sector comes predominantly from the outstanding portfolio (investments with medium-long tenor), while new operations only support these counterparties in their transition to low-carbon activities. Medium risk exposure is concentrated in the public administration and financial services sectors. Because financial services are exposed to so many different sectors, they reflect the average economic risk.

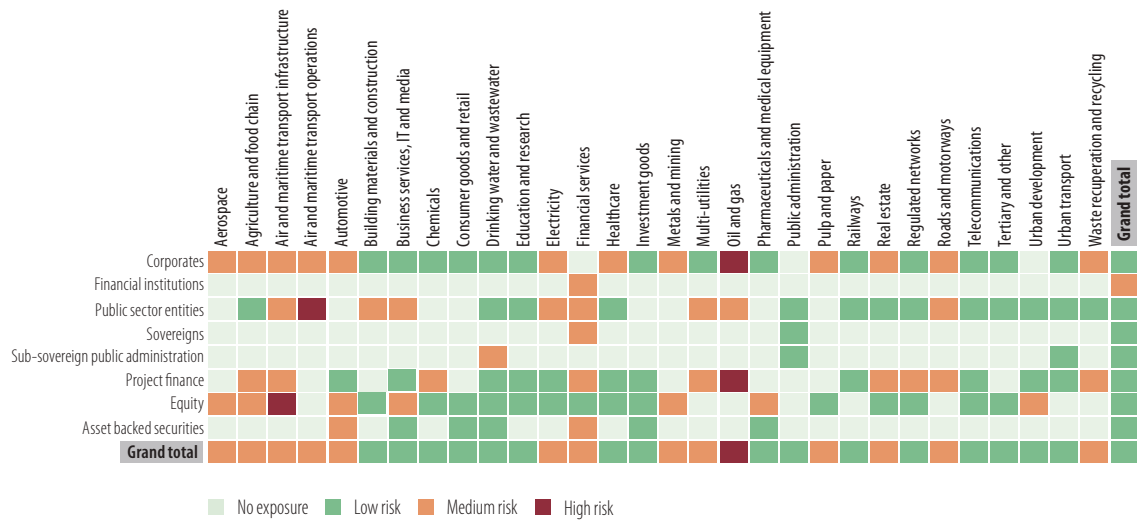
FIGURE 10: EIB GROUP EXPOSURE TO TRANSITION RISKS (IN %), BY CREDIT SEGMENT



Source: EIB Group

Financial institutions are generally exposed to the overall economy and therefore reflect the average transition risk. The predominant medium risk of sub-sovereign public authorities is linked to the overall average transition risk of the geographies the Group is exposed to. The high risk for project finance is mainly linked to operations in air and maritime transport, roads and motorways, and legacy projects in mining and gas infrastructure.

FIGURE 11: TRANSITION RISK IN THE CREDIT SEGMENT VS. THE ECONOMIC SECTOR
(AVERAGE WEIGHTED SCORE)



Source: EIB Group

3.3.4. Accelerating the transition through climate finance

The EIB Group has made key commitments on climate and green finance. These commitments and how the Group is supporting the transition through climate finance are presented in Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

3.4. CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE BANK'S FINANCING 2022-2024

The Bank makes dual estimates of the carbon footprint of its projects: one of the greenhouse gas emissions of projects financed during the reporting year, and one of the greenhouse gas emissions of its whole portfolio.

3.4.1. 2024 carbon footprint of signed projects

For details on the scope and process of estimating the carbon footprint of projects financed in a given year, see the [EIB Project Carbon Footprint Methodologies](#).

✓ In 2024, we estimated and reported the greenhouse gas emissions of projects with significant expected emissions that would exceed thresholds in absolute emissions (actual emissions from the project) and relative emissions (estimated increases or reductions compared to the expected alternative). For each, the threshold is > 20 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year for a standard year of the project's operations.

✓ In 2024, 82 projects had estimated emissions that were above the absolute or relative thresholds and were included in the carbon footprint exercise. These projects represent total EIB signatures or allocation approvals of €17 billion.⁴

✓ The related total absolute greenhouse gas emissions are estimated at 2.6 million tonnes of CO₂e per year. The overall reduced or avoided emissions from the same financing are estimated at 5.7 million tonnes of CO₂e per year.⁵

The table below shows the annual results for the last three years. The figures show large savings of 4.6 to 5.7 million tonnes of CO₂e per year. Overall, EIB projects continue to help reduce emissions, as shown by the high figure for negative relative emissions. Further details on historical data and sectoral breakdowns are provided in Annex A.2.

TABLE 1: CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE BANK'S FINANCING, 2022-2024

	2022	2023	2024
Number of projects	91	80	82
Amount signed by EIB (€ billion)	16	24	17
Absolute emissions (Mt CO ₂ e/year)*	1.6	1.2	2.6
Carbon sequestration from forestry (Mt CO ₂ e/year)*	0.03	0	0.04
Relative emissions (Mt CO ₂ e/year)*	-4.6	-5.2	-5.7

* Emissions and carbon sequestration are prorated to the Bank's lending volume before aggregation. Otherwise, total project emissions (absolute) and savings (relative) would be significantly larger. Mt CO₂e = megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

- Projects with a finance contract signed or large allocations approved in the year. Large allocations under framework loans already signed include individual investment projects that have undergone a full individual project appraisal.
- Carbon footprints are calculated using the version of the methodology in place at the time of appraisal. A project's carbon footprint is published in its environmental and social data sheet upon approval by the EIB Board of Directors. Individual carbon footprints are not subsequently adjusted due to methodology changes for the purposes of aggregating data in the annual carbon footprint exercise. The impact of applying different versions of the methodology has been assessed and is not deemed to be significant.



3.4.2. Estimating greenhouse gas emissions

In line with best practices, the Bank has been working to estimate and report on the total emissions associated with its entire portfolio of outstanding financed operations. While these include most of the Bank's operations, they do not yet cover the whole portfolio, as they do not include intermediated finance to banks and other types of financial intermediaries. The EIB Group is exploring how best to calculate or model the emissions of these intermediated operations.

✓ *At the end of 2024, the Bank's operations assessed for portfolio emissions were equivalent to roughly €390 billion in disbursed exposure. They are estimated to represent financed emissions of around 41 000 kilotonnes of carbon equivalent for 2024, of which approximately 54% are scope 1 emissions (direct emissions from a project), 15% are scope 2 (emissions from generating the power used by the project) and 31% are scope 3 (upstream and downstream emissions from the project).*

As explained in Chapter 7 of the [EIB Project Carbon Footprint Methodologies](#), a limited type of scope 3 emissions is calculated for certain projects.

Based on this assessment, it is estimated that the emissions intensity for the portfolio is approximately 110 tonnes CO₂ equivalent/€ million of disbursed exposure.

The majority of emissions in the Bank's portfolio come from investments in transport (33%), energy (26%) and industry (21%). Through its finance, the Bank helps clients progress in their low-carbon transitions, including investments in high-emitting activities to support energy efficiency and other emissions reductions.

This analysis was guided by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol [Corporate Value Chain \(Scope 3\) Accounting and Reporting Standard](#) and the [Global GHG Accounting and Reporting Standard for the Financial Industry](#) developed by the [Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials](#).

Around 49% of the portfolio-financed emissions are drawn from the carbon footprints estimated for projects since 2013 using the [EIB Project Carbon Footprint Methodologies](#) and included in the Bank's annual project carbon footprint exercise. These project emissions have been prorated to the size of the outstanding loan amounts that have not been fully repaid (representing the emissions of the part of each project financed by the Bank that has been disbursed and not repaid).

The remaining projects covered by the assessment did not have a calculated or estimated carbon footprint, either because they were financed before 2013 or because they were below the thresholds in Chapter 5 of the [EIB Project Carbon Footprint Methodologies](#). For these projects, emissions were generally estimated based on sectoral emission factors per million euros invested, derived from projects with a calculated/estimated carbon footprint, but capped at the thresholds in the [EIB Project Carbon Footprint Methodologies](#) applicable at the time of signature.

Estimating the financed greenhouse gas emissions for such a large and diverse portfolio with projects dating back several decades encompasses uncertainty, and outcomes may vary depending on the assumptions and tools used. 2024 is the second year that the Bank has reported on the emissions of its portfolio. The Bank will continue to work with other parties involved in this type of work, including users of portfolio-financed emission calculation tools, to improve the quality of the resulting figures.

Bringing down emissions from electricity generation

During 2024, the Bank analysed the emissions intensity of electricity generation projects in its portfolio, and how this has changed under the new energy lending policy, which in 2020 phased out support for electricity generation projects based on unabated fossil fuel. Bank support for renewable energy projects increased significantly during that same period. From the initial analysis, it is estimated that the average emissions intensity from electricity generation projects in the portfolio fell significantly, from around 120g CO₂e/kWh in 2018 to around 30g CO₂e/kWh in 2024.

3.5. CLIMATE GOALS AND ACTIONS IN EIB GROUP OPERATIONS AND UPSTREAM ACTIVITIES

The EIB Group also takes the lead in mitigating the impact on climate of its own operations and of upstream activities, though this impact is immaterial compared with that of its lending operations.

3.5.1. EIB Group environmental policy climate commitments

To improve strategic coherence and accountability, as called for in the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#), the EIB Group has integrated the principles and objectives of the [EIB Climate Strategy](#) into its internal environmental policy goals, targets and action plans. This ensures that sustainability is embedded in the Bank's own activities and in upstream activities, such as those of the Group's external service providers.

In late 2024, the EIB Group Management Committee approved an update to the Group's [EMAS Environmental Policy](#). This revised policy applies to all internal business activities in Luxembourg and external offices.

The updated environmental policy outlines the EIB Group's climate-related ambitions, including:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with EU climate goals;
- promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy;
- mitigating climate change beyond the Group's value chain, including through the purchase of high-quality carbon credits.

The ambitions of the policy are translated into concrete commitments and action in the Group's corporate climate programme (2020-2025) (see Chapter 3.5.2.1 below).

3.5.2. EIB Group actions addressing climate change

3.5.2.1. Corporate climate programme

In addition to setting Paris-aligned standards for its financing activities, the EIB Group is committed to leading by example through its internal operations. Its corporate climate programme (2021-2025) reinforces this commitment by addressing the environmental impact of the Group's internal operations and corporate supply chain through clearly defined carbon and sustainability targets and action plans, all aligned with the [EMAS Environmental Policy](#).

Using scientific methodology, the EIB Group has set a target to reduce gross greenhouse gas emissions by 12.4% from 2018 to 2025. This corresponds to a carbon reduction of approximately 30% in 2025 compared to a business-as-usual growth scenario. The corporate climate programme for 2021-2025 includes over 100 projects addressing the climate and environmental sustainability of daily operations in the Luxembourg and external offices.

3.5.2.2. Key corporate achievements

As of the end of 2024, the EIB Group is on track to deliver on its transition plan for internal operations by implementing mitigation measures around three levers: "the way we work," "the way we travel" and "the way we do business."

In relation to the way we work, the Group is constructing a nearly zero-emissions building, renovating offices according to circularity principles, and optimising energy use through efficient heating, lighting, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Internal processes are being digitalised, printing is being reduced, and office space is managed through a choice-based workplace strategy. Efforts also focus on minimising waste and single-use plastics.

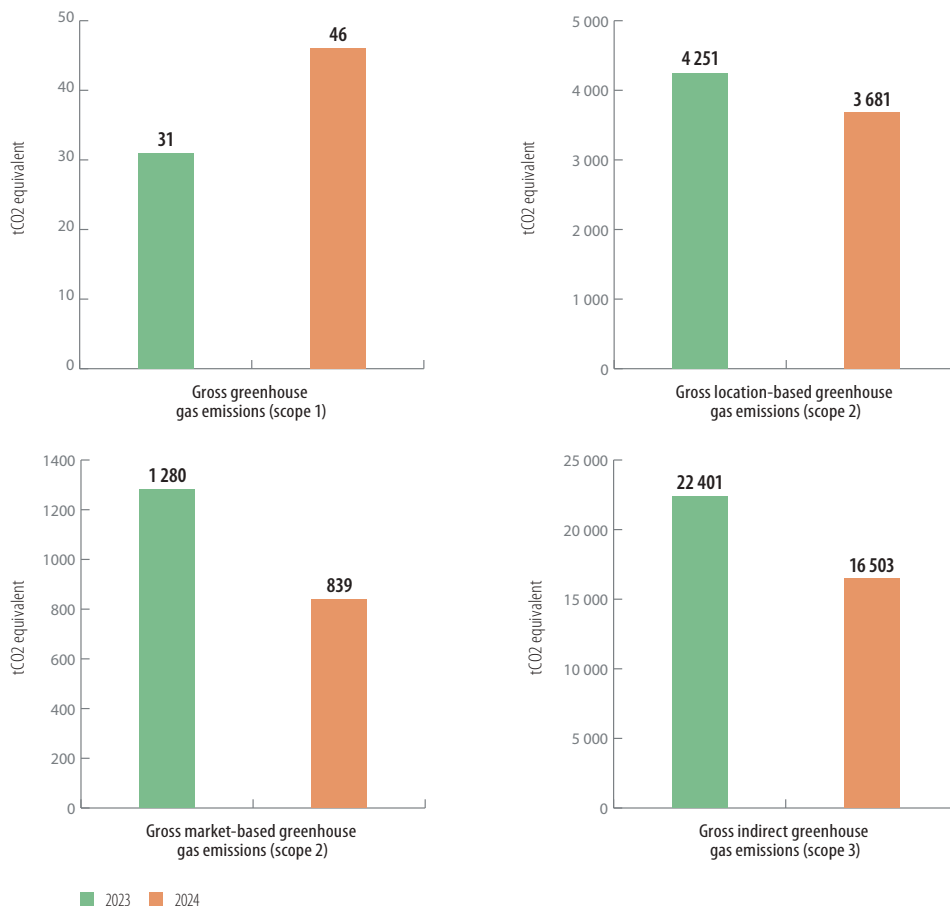
In terms of travel, the EIB Group promotes low-carbon commuting and business travel, supports video conferencing and teleworking, and is transitioning to a hybrid or electric vehicle fleet. Employees are encouraged to commute by bike, on foot or using public transport.

Finally, the Group is embedding sustainability into its business practices by engaging suppliers in the low-carbon transition and applying circular economy principles to the procurement of goods and services with a high environmental impact, such as office fit-out (transforming a space into a suitable office environment), building maintenance and hospitality services.

Staff engagement has also been a priority, with awareness raising campaigns and sustainability training modules promoting responsible behaviour. The EIB Group also engages with suppliers on sustainability objectives.

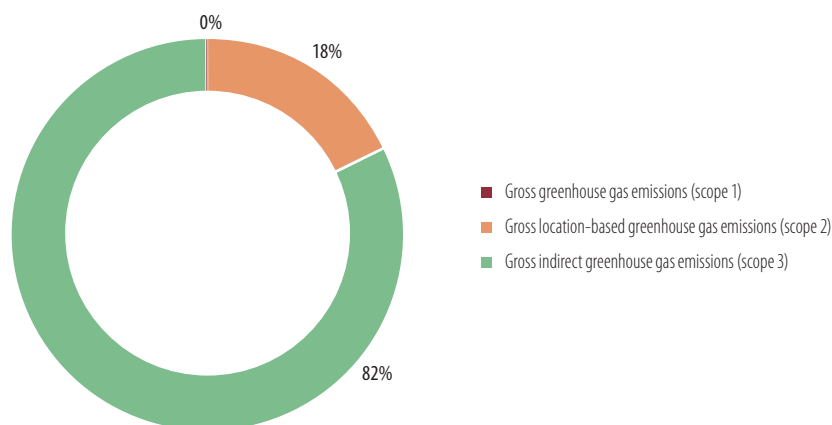
For a more detailed list of actions, their time horizon, progress of achievement and scope, please refer to the [Environmental Statement 2025 Update](#), including 2024 performance data. The EIB Group holds the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) certification for the environmental management of its activities conducted at its Luxembourg offices.

FIGURE 12: EIB GROUP GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



Source: EIB Group

FIGURE 13: EIB GROUP GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN 2024, BY SCOPE



Source: EIB Group

To ensure consistency, progress towards the greenhouse gas emission reduction target is assessed using the 2018 scope and methodology. As of 2024, the EIB Group had achieved an absolute reduction of 8 522 tCO₂e, a 31.7% decrease from 2018 levels – keeping it on track to meet its 2025 greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

See the [EMAS Report](#) for a complete breakdown of the EIB Group carbon footprint.

3.5.2.3. Addressing unabated emissions

Recognising that some emissions are unavoidable during the transition, the EIB Group is committed to offsetting these through climate contributions. This includes financing projects enabling greenhouse gas emission reductions or carbon removals beyond its value chain through the procurement of high-quality carbon credits.

From 2014 to 2023, the Group invested nearly €2 million in carbon credits, offsetting over 180 000 tCO₂e. In 2024, it issued a tender to procure 27 891 carbon credits for residual emissions resulting from its internal operations from 2022 and 2023. (Due to procurement delays, the contract was to be awarded in 2025, and no credits were cancelled in 2024.)

Going forward, the EIB Group plans to continue purchasing carbon credits for volumes at least equivalent to its annual internal greenhouse gas emissions, although no contractual obligation exists.

3.5.2.4. Ensuring integrity in carbon credit procurement

Since 2022, the EIB Group's procurement criteria for carbon credits have incorporated the ten [Core Carbon Principles](#) of the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market and the EIB Group's sensitive activity requirements (in line with the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)). All selected projects are certified by reputable international bodies and deliver co-benefits such as biodiversity protection, water quality improvement and local economic development.



4. FIGHTING POLLUTION

4.1. KEY MESSAGES

Pollution remains one of the world's most pressing challenges, affecting air, water and soil quality and overall public health. It is a major concern for governments, communities and organisations worldwide, as it threatens ecosystems, contributes to climate change and undermines quality of life. Tackling pollution requires coordinated, innovative and sustained efforts at every level of society.

In Europe, people are exposed to pollution in their homes, at work and outdoors, when they eat, play, sleep, drive, walk, swim or run. Environmental pollution is linked to a range of diseases, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and neurological disorders. Based on European Environment Agency data, environmental pollution, including air, noise and chemical pollution, significantly contributes to premature deaths and disease in Europe. An estimated 10% of premature deaths annually in the European Union are thought to be pollution-related. These deaths are preventable and can be significantly reduced by cutting pollution.

The EIB Group
financed
250
projects in 2024

€13
billion
in total
investment

“ The majority of operations that addressed pollution prevention and control also contributed to climate change mitigation by cutting greenhouse emissions. ”

4.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

The EIB Group supports EU efforts to reduce air, water and soil pollution to levels that are no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems, and that respect the planet's boundaries, thereby creating a toxic-free environment – as outlined in the [EU Action Plan](#). This approach is comprehensive and focuses on building new industries and reforming old ones so that they use fewer resources, generate less waste and emit fewer pollutants.

4.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

In 2024, the EIB Group financed over 250 projects supporting pollution prevention and control for a total investment of €13 billion. The majority of operations that addressed pollution prevention and control also contributed to climate change mitigation (cutting greenhouse emissions), and therefore had a dual benefit. These efforts are central to supporting a low-carbon, resource-efficient and zero-pollution economy, which results in a healthier planet for all.

4.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has implemented policies and standards to prevent and control pollution across its investments.

EIB Group:

- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)

European Investment Bank:

- [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)
- [The EIB Environment Framework](#)
- [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#)

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#)
- [Climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines](#)

4.1.4. Illustration of projects financed

- A €22.5 million EIB loan to [Chromafora](#), a Swedish cleantech company.
- An EIF investment of €50 million in [Infinity Recycling's Circular Plastics Fund](#).

4.2. POLICIES RELATED TO POLLUTION

Policies related to pollution are detailed in Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#). Standard 3 outlines the Bank's clients' responsibilities in contributing to the EU Action Plan: "Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil" through:

- sound management of hazardous substances and materials;
- avoiding the shift of pollution from one environmental medium to another;
- air, water and soil pollution prevention and control;
- waste management;
- emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

Mitigating air, water and soil pollution

Sound environmental management is key to abating air, soil, water and marine pollution and reducing waste and noise, which protects the environment and human health and well-being. The EIB Group finances projects that tackle these kinds of pollution through investments in cleaner transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency and upgrades to industrial facilities. These investments will also help Europe realise its ambitious plan to prevent and reduce emissions.

In addition, the EIB Group finances sustainable construction materials and methods and the renovation of older buildings, which improves the quality of indoor air. To improve water quality, the EIB Group finances the use of filters and other solutions that can be used in pipes to prevent pollutants and other contaminants from being dumped into water bodies.

Beyond the European Union, the EIB Group supports projects that actively reduce or manage pollution using cutting-edge techniques. In the years ahead, the EIB Group will increase financing to decontaminate sites in the energy, transport, industry, water, solid waste and building sectors, cutting contaminants in the air, water and soil. The EIB Group also invests in solutions to reduce problematic pollutants that cause excessive environmental damage, such as nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from the agri-food sector and microplastics.

INVESTMENT FUNDS: CLEANING UP ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGED SITES

In 2018 EIB contributed to the financing of the [Brownfields Redevelopment Fund 3](#), an environmental infrastructure fund dedicated to cleaning up and redeveloping sites that suffered environmental damage. The fund purchases former industrial, tertiary or commercial facilities, and handles the removal of any asbestos, demolition and cleanup. It also defines a redevelopment programme in close collaboration with local communities. Redevelopment programmes include housing projects, such as social housing, or new commercial or industrial sites. The fund invests in projects mainly in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Poland.

In 2022 the Bank loaned €15 million to the [Ginkgo III Fund](#), which supports investment infrastructure needed to clean up and regenerate former brownfield sites, or areas previously used for industrial or other activities. The loan, which was issued under the Natural Capital Financing Facility, will support climate adaptation and biodiversity. Ginkgo III is the third fund developed by Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity in partnership with Ginkgo Advisor, which works to redevelop and clean up brownfield sites Europe.

The EIB Group is tackling marine pollution through its [Clean Oceans Initiative](#), with investments that target pollution sources like the discharge of untreated water from inland, nutrient pollution (fertilisers from the agri-food sector) and unsustainable waste management. For more details on the Clean Oceans Initiative, see Chapter 5, “Preserving water and marine resources.”

Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) (Resource efficiency and pollution prevention), where applicable, outlines the responsibility of companies or public bodies that receive Bank funds. Projects funded must use resources efficiently, prevent pollution wherever possible and limit emissions, noise pollution and radiation. The standard also focuses on accident prevention, as well as waste management and the safe use of hazardous substances and pesticides. The EIB Group avoids shifting pollution from one area to another, seeking consistency with the “Do No Significant Harm” principle of the [EU taxonomy for sustainable activities](#) and contributes to Europe’s goal of zero pollution. Whether Standard 3 is applicable to a project is determined during the environmental impact assessment or environmental social impact assessment process.

The [EIF Environmental, Social and Governance Principles](#) complement [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) by describing the basic principles that guide the assessment, management and reporting of environmental, climate and social risks as they concern EIF transactions with financial intermediaries and other relevant counterparties.

Managing hazardous substances and potentially dangerous materials

Paragraphs 20 and 21 of Standard 3 address the management of hazardous substances. They require project promoters to avoid, reduce or eliminate the use and storage of hazardous and potentially dangerous materials, and consider replacing them with less hazardous substitutes, when economically suitable and technically viable alternatives are available. If replacing these materials is not feasible, promoters must ensure that they use and store hazardous substances and materials safely by adhering to the EU horizontal chemicals legislation (the [REACH Regulation](#) and others) and international good practices.

Avoiding incidents and emergency situations

Paragraphs 14 to 16 of Standard 3 clearly require that the promoter be prepared, after determining specific pollution risks, to respond to any incident, accident or emergency by setting up management systems and implementing control measures for prevention, preparedness and adequate response to major accidents, in line with the applicable legal framework and international good practices. Where relevant, the promoter’s overall environment and social management system should set out the following:

- a major accident prevention policy and the safety management system to be put in place to implement it;
- a contingency plan that analyses disaster risks and establishes arrangements that enable timely, effective and appropriate responses, including actions to ensure that those plans are tested, revised and implemented.

Contribution to the EU Action Plan: “Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil”

Paragraph 2.3 of the EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy confirms the EIB Group’s commitment to the [EU Action Plan: “Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil” of 12 May 2021](#).

The action plan lays out 2030 targets to quickly reduce how much pollution is created at the source. Investments by the EIB Group contribute to several of these targets:

- Improving air quality to reduce by 55% the number of premature deaths caused by air pollution. For example, [air pollution caused by fine particles led to an estimated 200 000 premature deaths](#) in the European Union in 2022. The EIB Group invests in clean public transport (rail, electric buses, metro systems, trains, etc.) that support the shift away from combustion engines based on fossil fuels.
- Improving water quality by reducing waste, plastic litter at sea (-50%) and microplastics released into the environment (-30%). The EIB Group invests in wastewater treatment infrastructure, waste management infrastructure and stormwater drainage that reduce the plastics and microplastics released into the environment.
- Reducing the amount of waste generated and residual municipal waste by 50%. The EIB Group invests in business models and production processes that are based on a circular economy model, minimising waste production and increasing the use of secondary raw materials in all sectors.

Chromafora: Removing harmful chemicals

The Bank is providing a [€22.5 million loan to Chromafora](#), a Swedish cleantech company, to step up Europe’s fight against widespread pollutants known as forever chemicals. Chromafora will use the loan to advance a technology for removing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – or PFAS – from water. PFAS are highly persistent and have been detected in water, soil and food across Europe, creating a serious environmental challenge. PFAS contamination poses significant risks to human health, with long-term exposure linked to cancer, decreased fertility and developmental disorders. The Bank funds will enable Chromafora to develop and roll out its technology at water-treatment sites across Europe from 2024 to 2028.



Circular Plastics Fund: Investing in recycling

The EIF is investing €50 million in [Infinity Recycling’s Circular Plastics Fund](#), one of the first European funds to focus on plastics recycling and scaling advanced recycling technologies that can transform plastic waste back to its original state for use as raw materials. Plastic packaging is the biggest contributor to plastic waste and pollution and a significant threat to ocean health, representing 80% of all marine pollution. Despite its negative impact, the use of plastic is expected to triple by 2060. Only 9% of plastic waste is estimated to be recycled, due largely to the limitations of current recycling technologies. Over the course of 2024, the fund invested in four companies that developed solutions to reduce plastic waste and pollution.

4.3. ACTIONS AND RESOURCES RELATED TO POLLUTION

For a detailed presentation of the contribution of EIB Group financing and advisory activities related to pollution, see Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

4.3.1. Financing

The EIB Group carefully tracks all investments that prevent and control pollution through its climate action and environmental sustainability tracking system. Of the four environmental non-climate objectives of the [Taxonomy Regulation](#), the EIB Group currently invests the most in pollution prevention and control. In 2024, the EIB Group financed over 250 projects supporting pollution prevention and control, investing a total of €13 billion. For a summary of EIB Group investments, see the General Disclosures.

Pollution prevention and control is the environmental sustainability objective that overlaps the most with climate action, providing a dual benefit. Pollution represents 70% of investments in environmental sustainability, of which 50% also contribute to climate action. This mainly comes from sustainable mobility (railway and urban) and renewable or low-carbon energy investments that improve air quality while also mitigating climate change. For example, electrified transport projects support climate change mitigation and pollution prevention because they reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The greatest contributors to pollution that do not also benefit climate action are investments in the water sector (40%) and the circular economy (33%).

The EIF sets an annual target for the share of its financing devoted to climate and environmental activities outlined in its climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines, which include activities related to pollution prevention and control. One example is the [Ocean 14 Capital Fund](#) backed by the EIF, which surpassed its €150 million target in 2024, reaching €201 million. The fund invests in startups that combat ocean pollution, overfishing, plastic pollution and the effect of climate change on marine habitats – for example, [a company that recycles discarded fishing nets into raw materials that can be reused](#).

4.3.2. Due diligence and monitoring

Broadly, the EIB Group responds to pollution by:

- conducting environmental due diligence on operations;
- ensuring that promoters can manage pollution-related risks;
- including conditions in financing contracts that ensure pollution is minimised and managed;
- monitoring.

According to Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), all operations located in the European Union, the European Free Trade Association, and EU candidate and potential candidate countries must comply with the applicable national and EU environmental laws. When national environmental standards and requirements are more stringent than those contained in EU environmental laws, as may be the case for environmental quality standards and/or emission limits, national standards take precedence.

Projects beyond the European Union must comply with national laws and, where relevant, any specific EU standards that the Bank deems should be respected.

For projects associated with activities listed in Annex I to the [Industrial Emissions Directive](#), the promoter must provide the Bank with:

- an environmental impact assessment (if the project is subject to the assessment), which includes a description of the proposed technology and other techniques (including the use of best available techniques or cutting-edge techniques) for preventing or reducing emissions to the air, water and land as well as waste generation, use of raw materials and noise, and energy use, in addition to information on accident prevention and restoring conditions of full compliance, in line with the requirements of the directive;
- the relevant decision(s) from the competent authority that satisfy the requirements set out in the assessment, where applicable, and the directive;
- the existing permit issued by the competent authority in accordance with directive requirements, including the results of emission monitoring, if applicable. For the appraisal of projects located beyond the European Union, the same principles of the directive apply, and the promoter must therefore work with the Bank to consider whether best available techniques and any emerging techniques can be applied in whole or in part, and include the timeframe for their implementation.



5.
**PRESERVING WATER
AND MARINE
RESOURCES**

5.1. KEY MESSAGES

By 2050 over 40% of the world's population may not have access to water that is clean enough for human use or to supply industry and agriculture – a situation known as severe water stress. Energy, transport, agriculture and industry all depend on a reliable supply of fresh water. As climate change intensifies and demand for water grows, it is increasingly urgent to safeguard this vital resource.

Water pollution is central to this challenge, with far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, economies and human health. Contaminants from industrial discharge, agricultural run-off, untreated sewage and plastic waste are degrading freshwater and marine environments at an alarming rate. In Europe, pollutants such as nitrates, pesticides, microplastics and pharmaceutical residues are frequently detected in rivers, lakes and coastal waters. These substances accumulate in the food chain, disrupt aquatic ecosystems and pose risks to public health. The combined effects of pollution and climate change – such as rising water temperatures and altered flow patterns – are further exacerbating the vulnerability of water bodies across the continent.

Addressing water pollution and ensuring a sustainable supply are also important for the blue economy, which promotes the responsible use of ocean and freshwater resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and healthy ecosystems. The blue economy includes sectors such as aquaculture, marine biotechnology, coastal tourism and renewable energy, all of which depend on clean and resilient water systems. Tackling these challenges requires coordinated, innovative and sustained efforts at every level of society, including stronger enforcement of water quality standards, investment in nature-based solutions and circular economy practices, and broad public engagement to drive systemic change.

The EIB Group
financed
46 projects
in 2024

€3.39
billion
in total
investment

“ Energy, transport, agriculture and industry all depend on a reliable supply of fresh water. As climate change intensifies and demand for water grows, it is increasingly urgent to safeguard this vital resource. ”

5.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

As the world's largest multilateral investor in the water sector, the EIB Group financed 46 water infrastructure projects in 2024 alone, totaling €3.39 billion. Over the past three years, it has invested approximately €10 billion in water-related projects.

Recognising the urgent need for further action, the EIB Group will set up a Water Resilience Programme supporting the [European Commission's Water Resilience Strategy](#). The programme will focus on delivering access to water and sanitation, increasing resilience and supporting the competitiveness of the EU water sector.

5.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

The Bank's [water sector orientation](#) sets clear investment priorities and operational guidelines for water projects. The orientation was published in 2023 after consultation of the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders such as the OECD, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Agence française de développement and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). The orientation recognises the need to strengthen water security across the globe in a changing climate, and the important role water projects can play.

The EIB Group also participates in collective initiatives like the [UN Environment Programme's Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles](#) and the [Clean Oceans Initiative](#). By rigorously assessing projects throughout their life cycle, the EIB Group guarantees that its investments minimise environmental harm and protect water resources worldwide.

5.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has implemented policies and standards to support water and marine resources preservation.

EIB Group:

- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)

European Investment Bank:

- [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)
- [The EIB Environment Framework](#)
- [EIB water sector orientation](#)
- [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#)

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#)
- [Climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines](#)

5.1.4. Illustration of projects financed

- A €450 million Bank loan to the [Jordan Water Security and Climate Adaptation project](#) to increase the water supply and improve sanitation services throughout the country.
- A €150 million guarantee from the Bank that made possible the first-ever debt-for-climate swap with Barbados, which will free up funds to improve sewage treatment and groundwater management.
- A €300 million loan to the [Hamburg water utility](#) to replace and expand sewer networks, pumping stations and treatment facilities.
- A €20 million EIF investment in the [Blue Revolution Fund](#) to support the regenerative aquaculture of fish and seaweed and help restore marine ecosystems.

5.2. WATER AND MARINE RESOURCES POLICIES

The EIB Group has policies governing water management, water treatment, water pollution prevention, and the design of products and services. These policies address water issues, consumption and efficiency, and sustainable oceans and seas.

Details of each topic and policy are provided below, along with the impact they have on water and marine resources.

5.2.1. The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy

The [EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) sets out how the EIB Group integrates environmental, climate and social considerations into its activities and processes. It provides an overarching framework for all other policies. Under this policy, the EIB Group reviews water projects to ensure that investments do not significantly harm the environment, do not impede the sustainable use of natural and living resources, and respect human rights. Operations must adhere to the environmental and social commitments set out in the policy, and requirements further detailed in the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) and the [EIF Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#).

The European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards cover several topics related to water. They state that the Bank supports projects in line with the European Commission's [Water Framework Directive](#) (2000/60/EC) and other directives. The standards also set out additional goals, such as the efficient use of water, wastewater treatment and the reduction of contaminants, among others. In particular, Standard 3 acknowledges the need to reduce pollution and pressure on natural resources, including water, and encourages the use of appropriate technologies and processes to achieve environmental objectives.

5.2.2. The EIB Environment Framework

The [EIB Environment Framework](#) summarises how the Bank delivers on its environmental commitments, especially its target of raising investment in climate action and environmental sustainability to exceed 50% of overall investment by 2025, as set out in the EIB Group [Climate Bank Roadmap](#). The framework lays out how the EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy addresses existing and emerging environmental challenges. It covers several topics related to water and marine resources, in particular the efficient use of water, the protection and restoration of water resources, and the reduction, control or elimination of water pollutants. It also aligns with the EU Action Plan: "Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil" to improve water quality by reducing waste, plastic litter and microplastics.

The EIB Environment Framework identifies additional domains in which it can further support the sustainable use and protection of water resources, in the face of increasing water scarcity. This includes using [nature-based solutions](#) to meet climate change adaptation goals (for instance, flood management and better preparation for droughts).

The framework also covers the blue economy and healthy oceans, recognising that protecting oceans and seas is indispensable to meeting the EU and global environmental and climate objectives. The Bank will continue to support the development of a sustainable blue economy by devoting more financing to investments that:

- reduce ocean pollution;
- protect coastal ecosystems;
- develop innovative sustainable aquaculture.

5.2.3. EIB water sector orientation

The **EIB water sector orientation** gives an overview of the Bank’s investment priorities. The orientation was published in 2023 after consultation of the European Commission and other relevant groups such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Agence française de développement and the German development bank KfW. The orientation confirms the need to strengthen water security across the globe in a changing climate. Moreover, it recognises the significant impact of water projects and the strategic role that the sector plays in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly for adaptation and environmental sustainability.

The orientation guides investment in water projects, and addresses their specific environmental and social challenges. It defines the Bank’s strategic orientation towards specific water issues:

- drinking water supply;
- wastewater collection and treatment;
- flood protection (including inland and coastal areas);
- agricultural water management.

The orientation prioritises investments in conventional water infrastructure and innovations like the circular economy, nature-based solutions and digitalisation. It highlights the types of investments that will maximise the Bank’s impact.

The orientation supports investments that ensure access to secure water supplies, protect against destructive events like floods, and provide reliable, sustainable and affordable water and wastewater services. It strives to improve efficiencies in sectors in agriculture, energy, chemicals and water; fosters investments in climate-resilient water systems to mitigate droughts and floods; and supports compliance with the EU water directives.

What the Bank is doing...	
...and will continue to do	... and will seek to develop or do more of *
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY	
New or extended water supply systems (in EU members)	New or extended water supply systems (in countries beyond the European Union)
Improved efficiency of water supply systems	Digitalisation of water utilities
Rehabilitation of existing water supply systems	Optimised asset management
Desalination plants (last resort)	Alternative water resources and additional storage to cope with climate change, especially drought risk
WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT	
Rehabilitate existing sewerage networks	New or extended sewer networks
Upgrade of wastewater treatment plants	New and/or extended wastewater treatment plants
	Systems for removing micropollutants
	Digitalisation of wastewater utilities
	Sludge management, including recovery of phosphorus and other nutrients
	Wastewater reuse

FLOOD PROTECTION	
Flood protection structures for inland and coastal areas	Urban stormwater management systems (including sustainable urban drainage systems)
	Early warning systems
	Nature-based solutions
AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT	
New irrigation or drainage schemes	Crop diversification as a strategy for climate adaptation and mitigation
	Energy-efficient pumping systems with increased use of renewable energy
	Multipurpose infrastructure including flood protection/energy generation/provision of drinking water/agricultural water systems
	Extended use of alternative water sources and focus on increasing water productivity
Modernisation of existing irrigation or drainage schemes	Investments to reduce water losses, improve water efficiency and reliability, or match irrigation service with actual needs
	Increased use of information technologies to improve water management

* Developing or increasing activities in line with strategic sector orientations does not necessarily mean increasing the lending volumes for these types of investment projects.

The Bank follows external directives and strategies for the water sector, such as those issued by the European Commission. Aligning policies with these goals ensures that the Bank's actions are consistent with broader EU objectives and strategies. The EIB water sector orientation also reiterates the strong role that climate-resilient water systems can play in achieving sustainable development for all. The most relevant [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) for the water sector are SDG 6, followed by SDG 3, SDG 11 and SDG 13.

5.2.4. European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria

The [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#) establishes the framework for identifying and classifying projects that qualify for climate action and environmental sustainability financing by the Bank and the EIF. It is a tool for ensuring investments are transparent, consistent and align with the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap](#). It outlines specific criteria for water-related projects with climate action objectives – for mitigation and adaptation – as well as environmental sustainability, particularly those that protect and promote the sustainable use of water and marine resources.

Similarly, the EIF's climate action and environmental sustainability framework describes the activities it identifies as contributing to climate action or environmental sustainability objectives. This includes activities related to the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources.

5.3. ACTIONS RELATED TO WATER AND MARINE RESOURCES

For a detailed presentation of the contribution of EIB Group financing and advisory activities to water and marine resources, see Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

The EIB Group will introduce a Water Resilience Programme in 2025 to improve access, control pollution and increase the resilience and competitiveness of the EU water sector, including large-scale infrastructure and nature-based solutions. This programme will support the European Commission’s [water resilience strategy](#), which took effect in June 2025.

5.3.1. Due diligence and monitoring of water and marine projects

As with all its investments, the EIB Group applies a risk-based approach to due diligence and monitoring of water and marine resource projects, ensuring compliance with the [EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) and the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#). This due diligence takes into account the environmental impact a project will have over its lifetime, and that of any products produced.

Standard 1 (Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks) requires promoters to assess projects according to the [Environmental Impact Assessment Directive](#) or the principles it sets forth for projects beyond the European Union. For marine environments, this assessment must be coordinated with the [EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) (2008/56/EC).

When performing due diligence for water sector projects, the Bank verifies that each project adheres to relevant water legislation and strategic frameworks. This includes compliance with the EU water directives – such as the [Water Framework Directive](#), the [Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#) and the [Drinking Water Directive](#), among others – or, for projects outside the European Union, adherence to the core principles of legislation and directives. The Bank ensures projects respect national legislation, river basin management plans and other overarching water management strategies. Other standards of the Bank, like Standard 3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention), encourage the identification, design and use of technologies, processes and services that respect and advance environmental objectives. This includes adopting best available techniques and emerging techniques as well as using energy and resources more efficiently and relying on renewable or less carbon-intensive energy sources.

In alignment with the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap](#), the Bank monitors and reports on investments that contribute significantly to the objectives defined in the [Taxonomy Regulation](#), and in particular of the objective “Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources.” In 2024, this contribution was €3.6 billion.

5.3.2. Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles

In 2017, the European Commission, the Bank, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Resources Institute released the [Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles](#), the first global framework to guide public and private investment in the ocean economy. These principles support SDG 14 (Life Below Water) by helping the financial industry to promote sustainability in industries that rely on ocean resources. Since 2019, these principles have been part of the [Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative](#), led by the [United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative](#).

Over 70 institutions representing \$11 trillion in assets have joined the initiative. In 2021 and 2022, the initiative released practical guidance for financing key ocean sectors – food production, shipping, ports, offshore renewable energy and coastal tourism. The list was later expanded to include waste management and coastal protection, providing standards, indicators and actions that encourage investors to finance projects promoting ocean sustainability.

5.3.3. Clean Oceans Initiative

The [Clean Oceans Initiative](#) is a collaborative effort by development banks to help reduce the plastic pollution discharged into marine waters. The initiative was founded in 2018 by the Bank, KfW and Agence française de développement. It now also includes Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Instituto de Crédito Oficial and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Clean Oceans Initiative funds projects that help avoid plastic pollution in oceans and increase the collection and recycling of plastics. The projects cover the following sectors: solid waste management, wastewater collection and treatment, and stormwater management. In February 2022, the initiative raised its joint financing target to €4 billion by the end of 2025.

To help identify and prepare Clean Oceans Initiative projects, the Bank has set up three technical assistance facilities to cover various geographical areas:

- the facility under the [Clean Oceans Project Identification and Preparation Programme](#), which identifies projects in sub-Saharan Africa;
- the [Project Preparation & Identification Programme for Timor-Leste](#);
- the [Caribbean sustainable water management and clean oceans programme](#).

By December 2024, more than 90% of the financing target had been reached by the partners, which have signed clean oceans projects all around the world. The Bank has financed about €1 billion of the target.

Progress under the Clean Oceans Initiative is reported annually, and includes details on the number of financed projects and the volume of financing allocated. This initiative is disclosed annually in reporting for the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap](#) and the [EU Blue Economy Report](#).

5.3.4. EIF financing

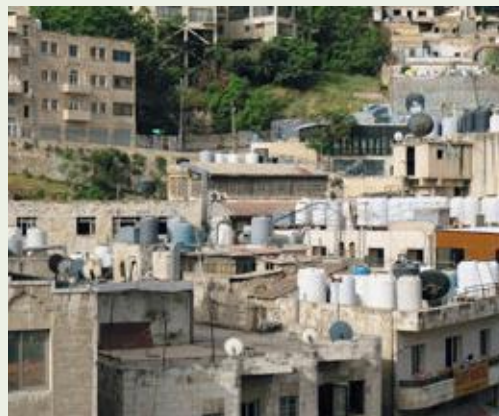
The EIF sets an annual target for the share of its financing devoted to climate and environmental activities outlined in its [climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines](#), which include activities related to the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources.

In March 2024, the EIF invested [€20 million in the Blue Revolution Fund](#). This venture capital fund focuses on early-stage aquaculture enterprises, and supports commercial fish and seaweed production, sustainable technologies and alternative seafood protein solutions, and marine ecosystems.

5.3.5. Examples of Bank projects that support water and marine resources

Jordan: Improving water supplies

Jordan suffers from severe water scarcity. The Bank is supporting Jordan with a **€450 million results-based loan** to finance investments to better capture and retain water and reduce any losses for paying customers. The goal is to increase the water supply and improve sanitation services throughout the country. In line with the Jordanian government's National Water Strategy (among others), the project will contribute to climate adaptation that improves water security and its efficient use while reducing pollution.



Barbados: Guarantee helps fund water investments

In Barbados, the Bank is supporting investments to help deal with climate change. The Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank are each providing a **\$150 million guarantee for new sovereign debt**, part of the first debt-for-climate conversion programme. The conversion will free up funds for Barbados to invest in water sewage and groundwater management programmes, such as creating a system to recycle wastewater for agricultural use.



Germany: Better-quality surface water

The Bank is loaning Hamburg **€300 million to co-finance water improvements** over 2024-2027. The project will improve the quality of surface water by improving how sewage is collected and reducing stormwater overflows. It will also save energy and increase renewable energy generation across the wastewater treatment facilities.

5.4. WATER AND MARINE RESOURCES TARGETS

The sector has consistently received strong support, with average annual financing of €3.3 billion over the past three years. As reported in The [EIB Group Operational Plan 2025-2027](#), the EIB Group expects to invest €4.4 billion in water and marine projects in 2025. Investment is expected to rise even further when the Water Resilience Programme begins to take effect in 2025.



6. PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

6.1. KEY MESSAGES

Biodiversity is the living fabric of our planet, essential to the stability of ecosystems and the benefits they provide – from clean water and air, to food security, to emissions absorption. Yet biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate: Around 1 million species are currently threatened with extinction, many within decades. This loss undermines not only environmental resilience, but also economic development and social well-being, with over half of global gross domestic product (GDP) – approximately \$44 trillion – moderately or highly dependent on what nature provides.

For institutions like the EIB Group, integrating biodiversity into decision-making is an existential responsibility and a strategic necessity. Policy decisions often overlook the multiple values of nature, favouring short-term economic gains over long-term sustainability. By embedding biodiversity considerations into our policies, investments and activities, the EIB Group supports an inclusive, resilient and just transition that protects biodiversity and ecosystems, aligns with the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and aims to ensure that nature is preserved for future generations.

The EIB Group
financed
30
projects in 2024

€600
million
in total
investment

“ Policy decisions often overlook the multiple values of nature, favouring short-term economic gains over long-term sustainability. ”

6.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

In 2023, the Bank, together with the Inter-American Development Bank, co-chaired the Joint Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on Nature, after signing the [Joint Statement by the Multilateral Development Banks: Nature, People and Planet](#) released at the [UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow](#) (COP26). The joint statement is an important milestone in efforts to scale up actions to protect nature. It outlined four main areas for multilateral development banks to focus on:

- supporting countries in implementing their commitments;
- tackling the drivers of nature loss by investing in [nature-positive](#) projects;
- fostering national and regional synergies;
- placing value on nature to guide decision-making.

Under the joint statement, multilateral development banks agreed on common definitions and principles to guide nature-positive finance. In 2024, the Bank started piloting the use of the common principles within its own environmental sustainability tracking methodology. The multilateral development banks have also begun developing a more comprehensive tracking methodology for nature finance.

6.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

The [EIB Environment Framework](#) sets out the parameters to achieve the commitments in the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) and the [EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#). It aligns with the joint statement by multilateral development banks to promote the preservation of natural capital and biodiversity.

The Bank is developing a natural capital action plan to integrate biodiversity and natural capital into EIB Group operations in areas where nature can support economic, inclusive and climate-smart development. It will also help accelerate the transition of counterparties (like companies or countries) in achieving their objectives to protect and value nature.

The plan articulates how the Bank will integrate natural capital into its work, from early engagement with promoters and countries to project preparation and implementation, knowledge sharing, advisory, capacity building and resource mobilisation. The proposed activities and objectives are consistent with the strategic orientation of EIB Group Climate Bank Road Map, the [EU biodiversity strategy for 2030](#) and the objectives of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#). The plan has four parts:

- i. early engagement with promoters, peer and partner institutions, and client countries;
- ii. operations and accountability;
- iii. knowledge and advisory products and capacity building;
- iv. resource mobilisation, origination and nature financing.

6.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has implemented policies and standards to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

EIB Group:

- [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#)
- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)

European Investment Bank:

- [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)
- [The EIB Environment Framework](#)
- [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of eligible sectors and eligibility criteria](#)
- [Forestry policy, Forests at the heart of sustainable development](#)

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#)
- [Climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines](#)

6.1.4. Examples of projects financed

- The Bank granted a [€100 million loan together with advisory support](#) in Morocco to preserve and restore more than 600 000 hectares of forest, creating 27 500 new jobs and fostering businesses in ecotourism.
- The Bank granted a €100 million loan in Côte d'Ivoire to fund sustainable cocoa farming, including by supporting [agricultural cooperatives that work with farmers](#) to preserve protected forests and biodiversity, while improving crop yields.
- The Bank granted a €200 million loan in Moldova to [help modernise the forestry sector](#) through investments that will improve forest governance and the regulatory framework, strengthen reforestation practices and restore and rehabilitate about 63 000 hectares of degraded lands and forests.



6.2. POLICIES RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

The EIB Group has comprehensive policies and standards to protect or restore biodiversity and ecosystems, including those that address land degradation, sustainable agriculture and deforestation, taking into account the impact of projects on local and indigenous communities.

As stated in the [EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) and the [EIB Environment Framework](#), the Bank's activities support the objectives of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (in particular Target 19) and the [EU biodiversity strategy for 2030](#), as well as commitments made in the [Joint Statement by the Multilateral Development Banks: Nature, People and Planet](#). Those policies integrate nature and biodiversity concerns into respective policies, investments and activities, by:

- maintaining thought leadership in the development of biodiversity safeguards;
- fostering nature-positive investments;
- creating regional synergies and setting out strategic approaches through partnerships and initiatives;
- placing a value on nature to guide decision-making;
- enhancing reporting on efforts and initiatives to include nature concerns in analyses, advice, investments and operations.

6.2.1. The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy

The EIB Group recognises that protecting, preserving and restoring biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are key to enhancing our resilience, preventing the emergence and spread of diseases, and fighting climate change. The EIB Group contributes to the long-term goal of "living in harmony with nature by 2050," set in the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), by supporting biodiversity in several ways:

- addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss by better integrating biodiversity considerations into EIB Group activities, including with biodiversity-related standards and safeguards;
- enhancing and valuing natural capital, and measuring the impact of related measures, to maximise synergies with climate action and other relevant sector strategies.

See the introduction for more details on the EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy.

6.2.2. The EIB Environment Framework

The [EIB Environment Framework](#) strives to integrate biodiversity and natural capital into key areas where nature can support economic, inclusive, climate-smart and resilient development. Here, the Bank pursues four objectives:

- **Protection:** The Bank applies the [EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) and standards to support promoters that implement good practices, such as managing biodiversity risks in operations and at counterparty level.
- **Early engagement:** The Bank works together with the European Commission, peer institutions and promoters to help effectively integrate biodiversity and nature into projects.
- **Knowledge, advisory and capacity building:** Working with partners, the EIB Group develops adaptable tools for long-term use to positively benefit nature and society.
- **Investing:** The Bank identifies and pursues opportunities to support nature investments and develops effective partnerships to leverage blended finance of loans and guarantees.
- **Impact measurement, tracking, reporting and disclosure:** The Bank develops, in partnership with its peer institutions, definitions and metrics for impact measurement, methods of valuation and standardised methods for tracking nature finance to assess nature-related risks inherent in its operations.

6.2.3. EIB Environmental and Social Standards

Standard 4 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) recognises that protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems and maintaining their ecological functions and processes are fundamental to environmental and social sustainability. The Bank supports projects compatible with maintaining the integrity of areas important for biodiversity, and those that halt and reverse its loss.

Recognising that the degradation of ecosystems and the value they provide may disproportionately affect vulnerable and indigenous communities,¹ the Bank promotes a holistic and human rights-based approach to biodiversity conservation and to the sustainable use of natural resources.

Standard 4 applies to operations identified during the environmental or social impact assessment process (as described in Standard 1 and in Chapter 6.3, “Actions to support biodiversity and ecosystems”), if those operations have an impact on the following:

- biodiversity and ecosystems;
- ecosystem services, including the communities whose access to or use of ecosystem services may be affected by project activities;
- protected areas or recognised areas of high biodiversity value;
- critical habitats.

The standard also applies to operations that involve [primary production \(cultivation or rearing\) and/or the procurement of living natural resources](#).

Standard 4 covers various topics related to managing risks and impact on biodiversity and ecosystems:

- impact on land degradation, desertification or [soil sealing](#) (making the ground impermeable);
- sustainable agriculture, where this relates to primary production and/or the procurement of living natural resources;
- social consequences of the impact on biodiversity or ecosystems;
- consultation with affected communities.

Where a project has an impact on natural resources on which indigenous communities depend (as defined in Standard 7) or affects natural heritage sites (as defined in Standard 10), Standard 4, 7 and/or 10 must be taken into consideration.

1. See also Chapter 8, “Supporting communities and cohesion”.

6.2.4. Specific biodiversity policies

6.2.4.1. Impact on land degradation, desertification or soil sealing

The Bank assesses a project's impact on land degradation, desertification and soil sealing during its due diligence process. Investments must meet the relevant requirements of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), where they apply.

6.2.4.2. Sustainable agriculture

As the climate bank, the EIB Group puts agriculture and rural development at the centre of its policies and strategies, and aligns those policies and strategies with EU and international ones, such as the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [European Green Deal](#), the EU [Farm to Fork](#) strategy and biodiversity strategies.

The Bank finances projects across the bioeconomy value chain, such as the agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry sectors and their relevant industries. EIB Group support increases the productivity, resilience and competitiveness of agricultural and food production systems, while protecting nature and forests and preventing land degradation. Investments reduce the environmental footprint of agrifood sectors and enhance carbon sequestration, while supporting biodiversity, minimising food losses and supporting development in rural areas.

6.2.4.3. Social consequences of biodiversity loss

Standard 4 recognises that growing pressure on natural resources and ecosystems have led to unprecedented loss of biodiversity, which is exacerbated by the adverse effect of climate change. This loss may have a disproportionate impact on poor rural households and vulnerable and indigenous communities that depend on [ecosystem services](#) for their livelihoods and well-being.

The Bank promotes a holistic and human rights-based approach to the conservation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems by systematically integrating a gender perspective that considers the different needs of women and men, especially traditional and indigenous communities. It also engages with relevant traditional and indigenous communities, which have particular expertise in protecting and managing biodiversity and natural resources, while respecting their rights to their lands, culture and spirituality.

As an example, [the Bank provided technical advice and lent €100 million to finance a sustainable forest management project in Morocco](#). Its aim is to preserve and restore more than 600 000 hectares of forest, combat soil erosion, regulate the flow of water, create 27 500 new jobs and foster businesses in eco-tourism.

6.2.4.4. Consulting with affected communities

Consultation with affected communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities, is integrated into the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards. Where applicable, Standard 4 calls for communities and people affected by an investment to be involved during the assessment of the impact on biodiversity and ecosystems, and the risks affecting them, to obtain relevant data; understand the uses, values and benefits associated with the natural resources involved in the project; or develop acceptable mitigation strategies. Standards 2 and 7 define how this engagement should be carried out. See Chapter 8, "Supporting communities and cohesion" for more details.

6.2.4.5. Investing in forests to meet biodiversity and climate goals

There is an urgent need for measures to protect and regrow the world's forests: sustainable forest management, reforestation and afforestation of degraded lands, processing and marketing of wood products and other non-timber forest products, and research and innovation, among others. The Bank's forestry policy, [Forests at the heart of sustainable development](#), is anchored in EU and international forestry policies and commitments.

Through the projects it supports, the Bank plays a leading role in contributing to the biodiversity, climate and land degradation targets laid out in the [Paris Agreement](#) and the Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#). Meeting them requires significant investment in forest [nature-based solutions](#) to at least triple in real terms by 2030, and to quadruple by 2050.

The Bank's commitment to sustainable forestry is aligned with its broader strategic objectives. The [EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap](#) includes supporting agriculture and the bioeconomy as a key policy priority, recognising the importance of sustainable forest management in addressing climate change and promoting economic development. Additionally, the [EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#) highlights the Bank's contribution to mitigating climate change through its investments in sustainable forestry.

The EIB Group supports active and sustainable forest management investments that include relevant stakeholders and local communities. In particular, it supports investments that promote multipurpose forest management and uses (timber production, carbon, biodiversity, [ecosystem services](#), etc.), as well as [closer-to-nature forest management practices](#).

Public banks, such as multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, play a crucial role in adopting forest certification programmes and systems that track how forest products are used. By requiring borrowers to adhere to international best practices in sustainable forest management, public banks help reduce the risk of illegal logging and deforestation, ensuring that timber and other products come from sustainably managed forests.

When financing forestry investments, the Bank requires borrowers to have due diligence systems that respect the [EU timber regulation](#) (which requires companies to verify that timber they buy was produced legally and to trace the origin of their products). This helps prevent the entry of illegally harvested timber into the EU market and supports efforts to combat deforestation. It also prepares companies for implementing the [EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products](#).

The Bank also requires borrowers to align their projects with the principles and standards of forest certification programmes. Programmes like the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification independently verify that products respect sustainable forest management practices.

In Moldova, the Bank is providing a [€200 million credit line to modernise the forestry sector](#) and enhance forestry management and the regulatory framework, and to strengthen the production of forestry material that can be regenerated. The investment will also help restore and rehabilitate around 63 000 hectares of degraded lands and forests.

6.3. ACTIONS TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

For a detailed presentation of the contribution of our financing and advisory activities related to biodiversity and ecosystems, see Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

6.3.1. Due diligence and monitoring

The Bank carries out due diligence on its operations, which includes assessment and monitoring of the environmental, climate and social impact of a project and of the risks that should be managed and monitored throughout it. The Bank assesses whether the investments have been structured to meet the requirements of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) – in particular Standards 1, 4, 7 and 10, which include requirements concerning biodiversity and ecosystems.

The requirements of Standard 4 are applied during the process of identifying environmental and social risks and impacts. Tools such as the [Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool](#) are used to screen and assess the risks to biodiversity, ecosystems and [ecosystem services](#), and the potential impact on them.

Promoters that use natural resources – such as food, timber and fibre, from regions where the risk of degrading biodiversity or affecting critical habitats is high – are required to work with companies and suppliers that have committed to internationally recognised standards or certification schemes for sustainable resource management.

6.3.1.1. Mitigation measures

Where applicable, investments must meet the requirements of Standards 1 and 4 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), which require clients to manage risks and impact by applying the mitigation hierarchy (as defined in the glossary of the European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards). Required mitigation measures are to be listed in biodiversity action plans or in more comprehensive Environmental and Social Management plans. This requirement is reflected in the environmental and social data sheet made for the investment, which includes conditions and monitoring requirements for promoters.

6.3.1.2. Screening tool for biodiversity risks

Beyond the project level, the Bank has developed a [biodiversity screening tool](#) enabling it to identify transition and physical risks that could affect its clients’ operations financially. Analysing portfolios for biodiversity risks could highlight the risks inherent in certain projects or sectors. The methodology is in line with the European Central Bank’s assessment approaches, and is based on public databases from entities like [ENCORE](#), [EXIOBASE](#) and the [World Wildlife Foundation](#).

6.3.2. Financing

6.3.2.1. Tracking climate action and environmental sustainability

The EIB Group tracks its financial flows contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems through its climate action and environmental sustainability methodology. See Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition”, for more information on tracking.

6.3.2.2. Tracking nature finance

To assess its contribution towards **Target 19** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Bank and other multilateral development banks are developing a comprehensive methodology to track investments in nature beyond **nature-positive finance**. The **MDB Common Principles for tracking nature-positive finance** were agreed in 2023.

6.3.2.3. Biodiversity offsets

The EIB Group uses **biodiversity offsets** as a last resort to address the residual effects of its investments. The aim is to compensate for any loss of biodiversity.

Where applicable, Standard 4 requires the promoter to develop an implementation and management plan. This plan must explain the reasons for the compensation or offsets and provide supporting evidence, following the principle of “equivalence or better.”

The plan must describe how compensation measures will be carried out and monitored. It should consider not only the possible negative effects on biodiversity and any effect that ecosystem damage could have on people’s livelihoods, but also any potential negative effects of the compensation measures themselves on local communities and their livelihoods.

The plan must also provide that the offset arrangements be effective and maintained for as long as the impact lasts. The affected communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and any relevant groups or experts, should be consulted when preparing the plan.

Again, biodiversity offsets are a last resort. If the project affects critical habitat (as defined in paragraph 16 of **Standard 4**), Net Positive Impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services must be achieved. All other forms of mitigation must be implemented before offsets are used. Offsets cannot be used to achieve net positive impact for critical habitat. Should offsets be required in an investment, its environmental and social data sheet will reflect this requirement.

6.3.2.4. Engaging with traditional and indigenous communities

Where applicable, Standard 4 requires that traditional, indigenous and local communities be considered in the design and management of mitigation measures and any associated actions (**nature-based solutions**) on the use, management and protection of nature and ecosystems. Where relevant, the EIB Group engages with traditional and indigenous communities, appreciating their expertise in protecting and managing biodiversity and natural resources, while seeking to respect their rights to their lands, culture and spirituality. See Chapter 8.3, “Protecting communities affected by EIB Group financing” for more information on indigenous peoples.

6.3.2.5. Stakeholder engagement

Where applicable, **European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards 1, 2 and 4** require that the Bank engage with stakeholders when assessing and managing risks and potential impact of investments on biodiversity and ecosystems. This engagement can be to obtain relevant data, or to understand how the resources are used, the values and benefits associated with biodiversity, and how to mitigate any potential impact. Efforts must be made to identify marginalised, excluded or minority groups who may have a different relationship with the ecosystems because of their cultural customs and social norms. The consultation and stakeholder engagement are summarised in an environmental and social data sheet. See Chapter 8.3, “Protecting communities affected by EIB Group financing” for more details on the stakeholder engagement process.

6.3.2.6. Examples of EIB and EIF projects that support biodiversity and ecosystems

One example of an EIF investment is Agroloop, a company that received a €7.5 million loan from UniCredit Bank Hungary under the EIF InvestEU Sustainability Guarantee. Another example is a €25 million investment in the Green Generation Fund, which invests early-stage capital in food-tech and green-tech startups whose innovations contribute directly to biodiversity by advancing plant-based proteins, regenerative agriculture, sustainable packaging and solutions that restore ecosystems.

Côte d'Ivoire: Funding fair and forest-friendly beans

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Bank is providing €100 million to a local development bank to fund sustainable cocoa farming. About 90% of the money will help farmers and firms involved in cocoa production meet the demand for sustainable cocoa produced under new EU standards and national legislation, which are designed to fight child labour and deforestation.



Hungary: Using food byproducts to enrich soil

Agroloop transforms local food-processing by-products into high-value insect protein, oil and organic soil conditioners (products applied to control water erosion and improve soil properties). This reduces waste and reliance on soybeans and fishmeal. Agroloop's products shrink the amount of land and water needed to produce food and food by-products while promoting soil health and biodiversity through its circular ecosystem.

6.3.3. Collective initiatives and partnerships

The EIB Group partners with **civil society organisations**, bringing local groups into its efforts to apply nature-based solutions that improve climate resilience and protect biodiversity. These partnerships help originate, develop and scale nature-based solutions, while getting groups to buy into measures that address climate change and nature loss.

Climate resilience and biodiversity partnerships include:

- the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Nature Conservancy, to accelerate investments in nature-based solutions that support biodiversity, and improve ecosystem resilience and climate change adaptation;
- the International Institute for Sustainable Development, to boost local demand for nature-based solutions early in investment planning by helping local authorities better communicate their costs and benefits compared to conventional forms of infrastructure and investment;
- the Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation, to identify opportunities to finance nature-based measures for coastal adaptation that addresses rising sea levels and erosion;
- Wetlands International, to identify innovative projects that remove barriers on Europe's rivers, improving flood resilience and biodiversity;
- ICLEI Europe, a network of European towns, cities and regions undertaking socially, environmentally and economically sustainable projects to protect biodiversity, and enabling these types of projects to be replicated in local communities across the European Union.
- the PBAF Standard (Partnership for Biodiversity Accounting Financials) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), to support EIB financing of biodiversity by testing ways to assess biodiversity risks and impact.

Climate-resilient bioeconomy partnerships include:

- **Finance Earth**, to promote biodiverse and climate-resilient forest management by integrating payments for ecosystem services into forest business plans and addressing investment barriers to sustainable fisheries;
- Global Seaweed Coalition, to identify finance opportunities in seaweed and bivalve aquaculture, supporting the blue economy, biodiversity and climate goals while improving livelihoods in coastal areas;
- Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation and WWF Greece, to engage with local authorities and experts to identify locations and nature-based solutions for flood resilience and biodiversity in the Thessaly region of Greece.

In the next five years, EIB partnerships will continue to address a range of ecosystem challenges, including biodiversity loss, land and forest degradation, overfishing and coastal erosion, helping increase resilience to floods and droughts and protect water resources.



**7.
FOSTERING
SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE USE AND
THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

7.1. KEY MESSAGES

To effectively tackle the growing challenges of resource scarcity and expanding waste, production must shift from traditional linear models to a circular approach that supports sustainable development and reduces emissions. This transition is becoming increasingly urgent. The global population is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, with more than half of people residing in urban areas. Such rapid urbanisation will place immense pressure on existing natural resources and significantly increase the volume of waste generated.

Current models of production and consumption are no longer viable. They contribute heavily to environmental degradation, with around half of global greenhouse gas emissions resulting from resource extraction and processing. These systems not only deplete finite resources but also generate excessive waste and emissions, making them unsustainable in the long term.

The circular economy presents a compelling alternative. By extending product lifecycles and maximising the efficiency of resource use, it offers a practical solution to reduce environmental impact. This approach is central to the European Union's Clean Industrial Deal and is critical to achieving its target of cutting emissions by 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Through innovation in recycling, reuse and sustainable design, the circular economy can help cities and industries meet the demands of a growing population while preserving the planet for future generations.

The Bank financed

38

projects in 2024

€1.4
billion
in total
investment

“ Through innovation in recycling, reuse and sustainable design, the circular economy can help cities and industries meet the demands of a growing population while preserving the planet for future generations. ”

7.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

The EIB Group actively supports EU efforts to promote circular economy, as laid out in the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), by providing advisory services and financing to help companies and public bodies transition. As one of the world's largest lenders to circular economy initiatives, the EIB Group evaluates the projects it supports to ensure they use materials and natural resources efficiently.

7.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

In 2024, the Bank provided a record €1.4 billion to finance 38 circular economy projects, underscoring its commitment to sustainable growth and resource conservation. Over the period 2020-2024, the EIB Group supported 153 projects worth €5.1 billion. The Bank also provides advisory services to help clients prepare and structure circular economy projects. The EIB Group serves as the current secretariat of the [MDB Working Group on Circular Economy](#), collaborating with other institutions. Through this and other initiatives, it shares the most successful approaches for circular economy projects and drives innovation in sustainable finance globally.

7.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has implemented policies and standards to support circular economy.

EIB Group:

- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)

European Investment Bank:

- [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)
- [The EIB Environment Framework](#)
- [European Investment Bank Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability: List of Eligible Sectors and Eligibility Criteria](#)

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Environmental, Social and Governance Principles](#)
- [Climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines](#)

7.1.4. Illustration of projects financed

- A €17 million loan to iPhone refurbisher [Swappie](#).
- A €45 million loan for a [renovation of the Bréguet building in the French engineering school CentraleSupélec](#) that reused existing resources.
- An EIF investment of €50 million in [Infinity Recycling's Circular Plastics Fund](#) to accelerate the reuse and recycling of plastics.

7.2. POLICIES RELATED TO RESOURCE USE AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As set out in section 2.6 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#) (2022), the EIB Group encourages and supports the transition to a circular economy in which:

- new products and assets are designed and produced in a way that reduces the consumption of virgin materials and the generation of waste;
- new business models and strategies are applied that extend the useful life of products and assets;
- resources and materials are recycled at the end of their useful life.

Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) addresses various topics around resource use and circular economy:

- resource efficiency and pollution prevention;
- sustainable sourcing and use of renewable resources;
- waste hierarchy;
- waste treatment.

7.2.1. Resource efficiency and pollution prevention

Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) addresses how the efficient use of resources relieves pressure on the environment and combats climate change. It talks about how circularity can reduce the use of limited resources and result in substantial savings on materials needed throughout the value chain and production processes. Relevant procedures and practices are evaluated during the project appraisal process, such as how the promoter works with outside suppliers and its capacity to implement the procedures in its own production process. The promoter is encouraged to apply best practices, and specific guidance may be provided. As relevant, this information is described in the Environmental and Social Data Sheet for the project.

7.2.2. Sustainable materials sourcing and renewable resources

Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), where applicable, requires an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of a project's use of materials and natural resources (land, soil, water, biodiversity, etc.), and its use of energy, especially in production processes. The assessment also includes the environmental impact resulting from resource use over the project's lifetime and the life cycles of any products produced. Based on the outcome of this assessment, the promoter is encouraged to implement measures to protect natural resources and avoid any significant environmental harm, to preserve the long-term availability of those resources for human activity.

Such measures include reducing inefficiencies in the use of materials and substances, or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources (such as non-renewable energy sources, raw materials, water and land), at one or more stages of the life cycle of products and assets, taking into account materials' durability and ability to be reused, repaired, upgraded or recycled, as applicable. It also considers the easy disassembly and adaptability of products and assets.

The European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards apply specifically to the Bank. The EIF also has its own [climate action and environmental sustainability guidelines](#), which cover climate action or environmental sustainability and activities related to circular economy.

7.2.3. Waste hierarchy

Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), where applicable, requires project promoters to avoid waste and to reuse and recycle materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy (paragraph 8). This is a multistep hierarchy, established in the EU [Waste Framework Directive](#), which outlines types of waste management and disposal. Preventing the use of virgin materials is prioritised, and sending waste to landfills is the last resort. EU countries are required to meet a series of targets relating to the waste hierarchy. The EIB Group lends money to companies and governments to help them comply with the directive.

Examples of the Bank's operations to support waste prevention include a €17 million loan to Swappie, Europe's largest iPhone refurbisher, which extends the useful life of mobile phones and reduces the device replacement rate, and a €45 million loan to the French engineering school CentraleSupélec to renovate the historic Supélec building, maximising the reuse and repurposing of building materials to decrease the resource footprint of the refurbishment.



Finland: Swappie extends the life of smartphones

The Finnish company [Swappie refurbishes smartphones to extend their life](#), therefore reducing carbon emissions, e-waste and the need for critical raw materials. The Bank is backing the company, Europe's largest iPhone refurbisher, with €17 million in venture debt made possible by an InvestEU guarantee. Swappie offers warranties of up to three years, which helps build consumer trust in refurbished devices. In 2021 alone, Swappie estimates that sales of its refurbished devices avoided 24 000 tonnes of carbon emissions – equivalent to the emissions absorbed by nearly 400 000 trees over a decade.



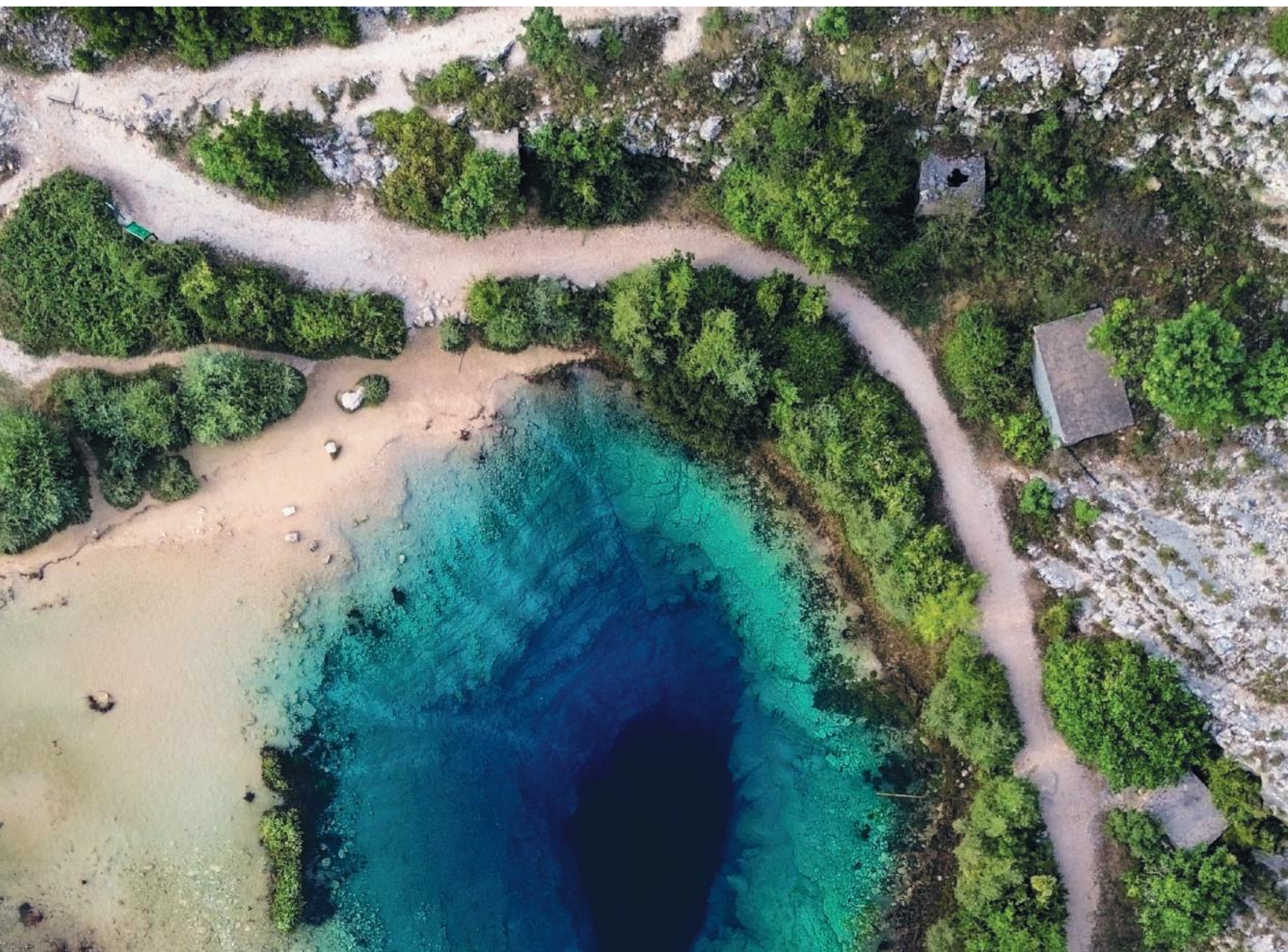
France: Renovating a university campus with used materials

CentraleSupélec, a French research and engineering school on the outskirts of Paris, will transform its main building to meet the future needs of the science and engineering school while preserving the building's architectural heritage. [The Bank is loaning the university €45 million to help pay for the renovation and extension](#), which will use recycled and recovered materials. When completed in 2026, the building will serve as an innovation hub that fosters exchanges across teaching, research, entrepreneurship, administration and campus activities.

7.2.4. Waste treatment strategy

Standard 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), where applicable, requires project promoters to avoid activities that would lead to a significant increase in waste generation, incineration or disposal (paragraph 8). These requirements reflect the body of EU legislation covering the management of various waste streams.

The Bank provides support for these directives by identifying investments that reduce waste and promote resource efficiency. Examples include a [€40 million loan to Renewi](#) to establish new waste sorting facilities to recycle plastics and generate biogas from food waste, and a [€500 million loan to Sandvik](#), a Swedish manufacturing and process solutions company that is researching how to limit waste and improve the processes used to make tools and tooling systems for advanced industrial metal cutting.



7.3. ACTIONS RELATED TO RESOURCE USE AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

For a detailed presentation of the contribution of our financing and advisory activities to resource use and circular economy, see Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

The EIB Group supports the circular economy with three types of activity: finance, advisory support, and awareness raising and partnerships.

7.3.1. Financing

EIB Group investments reduce waste and increase recycling in multiple sectors (such as solid waste management, the bioeconomy, industry and construction). EIB Group financing can also be deployed to increase the efficient use of resources and by-products, and to back innovative circular business models (such as product-as-a-service leasing businesses), technologies and social innovations that support circular ideas.

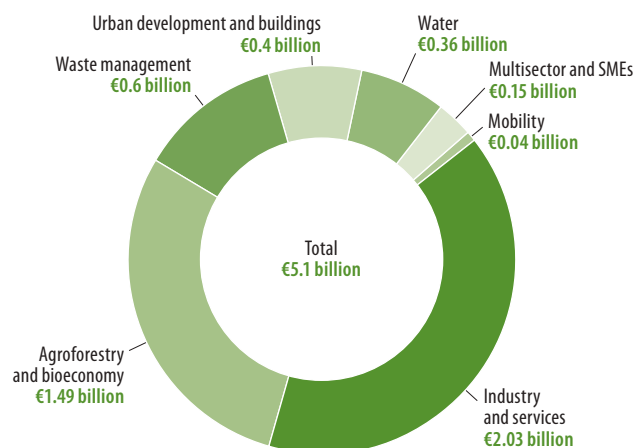
The EIB Group has a range of financing products and instruments that facilitate public and private investments in the circular economy.

The Bank offers sovereign or corporate loans for individual projects, framework loans to finance a group of sub-projects, intermediated lending for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and equity investments. These products can be tailored to meet circular economy investment needs by including circular economy eligibility criteria. The Bank also provides training or technical assistance on the use of these criteria and related reporting.

The Bank is stepping up its support for circular cities by offering tailored framework loans. These loans finance the circular components of long-term municipal investment programmes. For example, such investments can cover projects in the built environment, waste and water management, and mobility.

In 2024, the Bank financed 38 circular economy projects worth more than €1.4 billion (vs. 31 projects for €1.1 billion in 2023). From 2019 to 2024, the Bank financed 153 circular economy projects, worth approximately €5.1 billion.

FIGURE 1: EIB CIRCULAR ECONOMY FINANCING, 2020-2024



Source: EIB Group

For its part, the EIF focuses financing on vertical strategies (supporting new circular products or solutions) and horizontal strategies (applying solutions and transforming business processes to incorporate circularity). For example, in 2024 the EIF signed a €30 million commitment for the [Polestar Capital Circular Debt Fund](#), which has a target size of €250 million. The fund provides debt financing to innovative projects within the circular economy, including those that contribute to waste reduction and resource efficiency in sectors like agriculture, chemicals, construction, metals, mining and textiles.

7.3.2. Advisory support

To further support circular economy, the Bank offers tailored advisory services through a number of initiatives that provide both technical and financial support. One example is its Circular City Centre (C3), which accompanies EU cities in their transition to more circular practices (see also the [Circular City Funding Guide website](#)). For more information on advisory services, see Chapter 2, “Supporting the green transition.”

7.3.3. Awareness raising

The Bank is an active member of the multilateral development bank [circular economy working group](#), and currently holds the secretariat. The group has issued a statement outlining the shared vision of working group members on the circular economy, and has published *The circular economy in motion*, a report that presents a series of case studies on circular economy. These resources are valuable for raising awareness internally and externally on circularity and the investment opportunities it presents.

In addition, the Bank attends and contributes to circular economy events, such as the [World Circular Economy Forum](#) (of which it is a sponsor), and meetings convened by the [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#).

The Bank is part of a technical assistance programme financed by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Environment called [SWITCH to Circular Economy Value Chains](#), which maps out circular economy opportunities and investment needs in Bangladesh, Morocco and Egypt. The programme includes a programme to train banks and other financial institutions on circular economy lending and opportunities.

7.3.4. Collective initiatives and partnerships

In 2019, the Bank kicked off the [Joint Initiative on Circular Economy](#) with the European Union’s largest national promotional banks and institutions. When the group was created, members agreed to invest at least €10 billion in the circular economy by 2023. This five-year goal was exceeded, with a total of €11.57 billion invested. In 2024 the group welcomed a new partner, Invest NL, and a new cumulative target was set: €16 billion by 2025. The group is on track to exceed this goal.





PART V

SOCIAL INFORMATION



8.
SUPPORTING
COMMUNITIES AND
COHESION



8.1. KEY MESSAGES

The EIB Group is dedicated to fostering social cohesion and building inclusive communities by investing in sustainable projects that generate jobs, drive economic growth and enhance essential services. Our finance promotes equality, climate resilience, decent employment and financial inclusion. Targeted initiatives, such as the EIF's SME Competitiveness Portfolio Guarantee under InvestEU, support small businesses and social inclusion for vulnerable groups. Partnerships with the Council of Europe Development Bank and other groups focus on affordable housing, social infrastructure, microfinance and support for displaced people, including Ukrainian refugees.

The EIB Group
financed a record

**€38.3
billion**

for cohesion
regions

representing

48%

of total financing in
the European Union

“ EIB Group investments take into account the impact they have on local communities as well as the risks and additional value they create. ”

8.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

The EIB Group places the well-being of communities at the core of its operations. Investments take into account the impact they have on local communities as well as the risks and additional value they create. The EIB Group has embedded the principles of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) and the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) into its policy framework to seek to ensure that projects meet rigorous environmental and social standards. On a risk-based approach, it carries out its due diligence to ensure that promoters and financial intermediaries implement requirements of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) and EIF's [Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#) to engage with and protect the rights of communities affected by financed projects. The Bank communicates on the impact projects may have and the measures it takes to mitigate that impact through its [public register](#). It also seeks to ensure that promoters make grievance mechanisms available to affected communities.

8.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

The Bank assists clients in designing projects for maximum social impact, sharing knowledge across sectors and regions. Gender analysis and action planning are integrated to benefit women and diverse groups, while other measures seek to ensure that underserved and fragile communities can access public services, which strengthens social inclusion and economic participation.

8.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has implemented policies and standards that define how it communicates with communities and the impact it has on them.

The EIB Group:

- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)

European Investment Bank:

- [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), in particular standards 1, 2, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#)

In addition, the [EIB Strategic Approach to Fragility and Conflict](#) guides its work in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and its [approach to the just transition](#) addresses the socioeconomic impact of decarbonising economies.

8.1.4. Illustration of projects financed

- A €150 million loan to support sustainable cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire, especially activities that generate income for women. (See the box on page 135 of Chapter 6, "Protecting biodiversity and ecosystems").
- An EIF investment of €22.5 million in the [Global Social Impact Fund II](#), which backs small businesses in Spain that provide jobs to people at risk of economic and social exclusion.

8.2. HOW THE EIB SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES AND COHESION

The Bank prioritises growth, prosperity, and technological and social progress in individual EU countries and works to reduce inequalities between regions. It addresses systemic discrimination and exclusion by investing in projects that advance gender equality, women’s empowerment and equal access to opportunities. This work is enshrined in the statutes that founded the European Investment Bank and is reflected in the [EIB Group 2024-2027 Strategic Roadmap](#). In addition, gender analysis and actions, which are outlined in [Financing for gender equality with the European Investment Bank](#), maximise the benefit projects bring to women and diverse groups.

The Bank also supports a just and fair green transition by identifying ways to strengthen the impact projects have on climate and social outcomes. The Bank supports clients in designing projects that maximise social impact and facilitates the exchange of knowledge across sectors and regions. Project designs can include measures to make public services more accessible to underserved communities, rural communities, communities in fragile contexts and cohesion regions. For example, the Bank works with promoters to strengthen the effect SME lending has on social inclusion by promoting leadership and employment and economic opportunities to be made available to vulnerable and priority social groups.

For more information on the EIB Group’s impact, see the [EIB Group activity report for 2024](#), which outlines the positive contribution projects made to communities, such as through better health services and sanitation, lower flood risk to people and new jobs. As outlined in Chapter 1, “General information,” the EIB Group’s activities have also significantly contributed to economic growth and the the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

8.2.1. Ukraine



Despite war and hardship, daily life continues in many parts of Ukraine, and the government must ensure that people have at least their basic needs met. The Bank continues to support Ukraine, building on two previous successful operations. For example, it signed a €250 million framework loan in 2024 to repair and refurbish small-scale infrastructure. The funds are helping hundreds of Ukrainian municipalities rebuild key infrastructure, such as water systems and schools. These and other infrastructure investments also provide decent living conditions for internally displaced people and their host communities, helping people rebuild their lives. The funds can be used for housing, education, health, district heating, administrative buildings, water, sanitation and local transportation.

In November 2024, the EIF began a pilot programme for a €300 million export credit guarantee facility to facilitate trade with Ukraine and facilitate the country’s economic recovery. The funds, which will be available under the [InvestEU SME window](#), can be used by EU companies exporting to the country, reducing their financial risk.

8.2.2. Secure transport, safe roads



Safe road infrastructure requires long-term, sustainable investment, but this investment is lacking in many countries. The Bank devotes significant funding and advisory services to safer transport (especially road safety), as detailed in its [Transport Lending Policy](#). As pointed out in the [Evaluation of EIB support to Urban Public Transport in the European Union](#) (2021), Bank support has contributed to improving traffic safety and passengers’ security.

The Bank’s Transport Lending Policy underscores that the greatest benefits occur when investments in safe and secure transport are combined with broader investments in transport and network planning, public transport, road construction, traffic operation and maintenance.

Following new commitments signed in 2024, the Bank estimates that its investments helped achieve:

- 305 million additional passenger trips on public transport;
- better urban or regional infrastructure for 67.5 million people.

An example of the Bank's financing in this area is the project to modernise the **90-kilometre railway** in Poland, which connects the cities of Kościerzyna and Gdynia. The project will also improve freight transport to Gdynia's port and reduce congestion on parallel routes. The project is expected to aid regional development and improve access to sustainable transport.

India: Extending railways

The Bank is providing **€240 million in financing for the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation** to expand the existing metro network in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India. To be completed over four stages, the project will add a total of 44 kilometres of rail lines and 32 stations, connecting satellite towns and making public transport more accessible. The project will provide local communities safer, faster and more affordable transport, and will particularly benefit those with reduced mobility and women, thereby facilitating more equitable access to employment and educational opportunities. This initiative complements the Bank's support for sustainable and inclusive urban transport in India, including the Bangalore Suburban Railway project to improve public transit.



8.2.3. Sustainable cities and communities



The Bank plays a central role in promoting sustainable urban development across the world. Its **approach to sustainable cities and regions** improves the quality of life in urban areas and aims to ensure inclusive access to infrastructure and services. The Bank's approach focuses on:

Urban mobility: Financing safe, green and efficient public transport systems that reduce emissions and improve accessibility, including for low-income and underserved populations.

Urban development: Supporting integrated urban regeneration, land-use planning, and infrastructure investment that fosters social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Affordable and sustainable housing: Investing in the construction and renovation of housing that is energy-efficient, accessible and affordable, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Climate-resilient infrastructure: Promoting low-carbon and climate-adaptive urban infrastructure, in line with the **European Green Deal** and Europe's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Advisory services: Providing cities and regions with the tools and expertise needed to design and implement impactful, inclusive urban projects. The Bank also supports cities as they meet urgent challenges like integrating refugees and displaced populations, ensuring that urban investments contribute to social cohesion, and equitable access to services.

In 2024, the Bank committed a total of €47.3 billion (expected to mobilise €248 billion in investment overall) to projects that contribute to **SDG 11** (inclusive, safe and resilient cities). The same year, the EIF committed €2.4 billion in new equity investments contributing to SDG 11 (supporting total investments of €24.2 billion), and debt operations worth €2.5 billion.

8.2.4. Access to affordable healthcare



Healthcare worldwide suffers from a lack of resources, with serious consequences for individuals and communities. Investment in infrastructure improves the availability and resilience of healthcare services, while funding for innovation and life sciences helps manage new, recurring and growing health threats. The Bank is a major investor in these areas, financing the construction and modernisation of healthcare facilities to make care better and more accessible.

Investments in affordable healthcare contribute to **SDG 3** (good health and well-being). In 2024 the Bank signed an estimated €11.6 billion in new commitments that contribute to SDG 3 (supporting projects worth €58 billion). The EIF signed new equity operations of €39 million (supporting investments worth €312 million), and debt operations of €141 million.

New Bank commitments signed in 2024 enabled:

- 14.9 million people to gain access to better health services;
- 2.2 million patients to be treated in new or improved facilities.

France: Funding health-care firms

The Bank worked with Crédit Agricole on a **€400 million multibeneficiary intermediated loan** to improve finance for small businesses and entrepreneurs serving French healthcare. The funds will support the creation of new businesses, such as clinics and medical centres, and improve access to capital. Up to 50% of the loan will go to startups, and 30% to women-run companies. The loan targets healthcare practitioners willing to establish their businesses in regions lacking healthcare infrastructure, aiming to improve access for an estimated 9 million people living in “medical deserts” in France.



For its part, the EIF will manage a **€200 million fund**, EquiFund II, in Greece. EquiFund II will invest in underlying funds managed by financial intermediaries supporting startups and small businesses in life sciences, healthcare and sustainability. Equity investments will span all stages of company development, from seed capital through scale-up funds.

These investments support **SDG 3** by improving access to safe, effective and individualised healthcare.

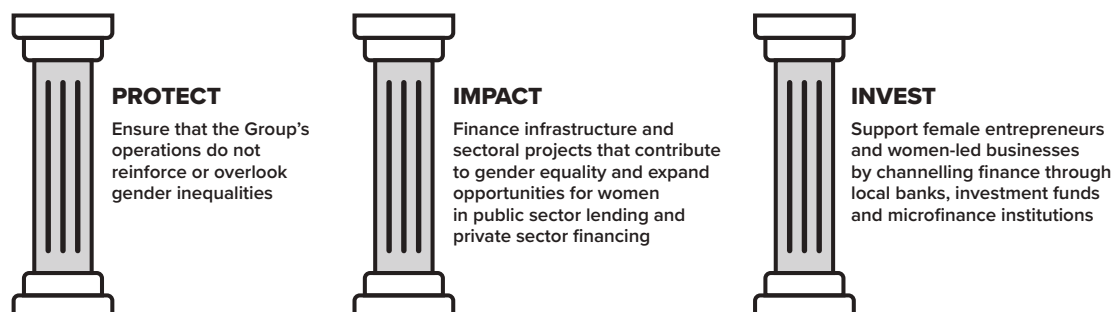
8.2.5. Supporting gender equality



Since 2018, the EIB Group has embedded gender equality and women’s economic empowerment into its core business model. It has invested systematically in initiatives that enhance women’s access to capital, promote equal participation in economic life and close gender gaps across sectors.

The EIB Group’s approach has three pillars, as set out in the **EIB Group Gender Action Plans**.

FIGURE 1: THE THREE PILLARS OF GENDER ACTION PLANS



Source: EIB Group

Complementing these pillars are targeted advisory initiatives designed to strengthen the Group's institutional capabilities to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

Given its public-private scope and close relationship with the European Commission, the EIB Group has aligned its internal eligibility criteria and tracking systems with the standards of the [2X Challenge criteria for gender lens investing](#) and [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development DAC gender equality policy marker](#). These frameworks have been adapted to reflect the specific operational models of the Bank and the EIF, ensuring consistency and relevance across the EIB Group's activities

In 2024, the EIF started the [Gender Smart Equity Investment Programme](#), joining forces with national promotional institutions and regional authorities to promote women's leadership in venture capital and private equity.

Similarly, at the request of female investors across Europe and as part of its Empowering Equity initiative under InvestEU, the EIF set up the [Empowering Equity Mentorship Programme](#). The programme fosters diversity in EU private equity firms and connects up-and-coming female investors with more experienced women mentors already active in venture capital, private equity and private credit.

In 2024, the Bank financed 43 projects that significantly contributed to gender equality and women's economic empowerment across the globe, providing €3.8 billion of investment, split equally between the European Union and the rest of the world. Gender equality was included in 28% of the operations financed by EIB Global, the Bank's development arm responsible for operations outside the European Union.

The investments supported women's access to finance and public and private sector projects that advance gender equality and close gender gaps in the bioeconomy, digital, energy, health, mobility, urban development and water sectors.

The Bank is now developing its third Gender Action Plan. Its [Gender Action Plans I and II](#) delivered impressive results from 2021 to 2025:

- 182 operations were signed that totalled €16.5 billion in financing for gender equality.
- Over €10 million were secured (not yet delivered) in advisory services that promote gender equality in the European Union and beyond.
- Over 60 000 companies led by women and female entrepreneurs were financed by the Bank's multibeneficiary intermediated loans in the EU and beyond.
- 35 000 new female borrowers were added by local banks following work done by Advisory Services.

- Finance provided to improve health services for women:
 - new breast cancer diagnostics tool
 - novel maternal vaccine to protect newborns from infections
 - improved women's health and hygiene products
 - malaria treatment during pregnancy
 - COVID-19 vaccine rollouts prioritising pregnant and vulnerable women in low- and middle-income countries

Beyond investing directly, the EIB Group is also working with partners across the globe to increase financing for gender equality. In 2024:

- With support from the European Commission and the Swedish International Development Agency, the Bank created a €6.4 million technical assistance facility for gender and social inclusion for companies and other clients under policies governing the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood.
- The Bank chaired the multilateral development bank sub-working group on how to measure the impact of climate change on women. The group collaborates on pressing challenges affecting gender equality globally. It also co-chaired the sub-group on gender in the multilateral development bank working group on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- The Bank joined the Alliance for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Recovery for Ukraine, an initiative led by UN Women and supported by governments, United Nations agencies, and private sector and civil society entities. In line with commitments under the alliance, the Bank integrates gender equality into its work in fragile and conflict-affected areas.
- Together with ten other multilateral development banks, the Bank signed a joint statement reiterating its commitment to ending violence against women. It also signed the joint statement on continuous advancement of standards to prevent sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, with nine other international financial institutions.
- The Bank is part of the Finance in Common Coalition on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Banks.

In 2024, the EIF signed €4 billion in new equity operations, and financed €169 million in debt operations, contributing to SDG 5 (achieve gender equality).

Austria: Money for women-led startups

The EIF invested €10 million in Fund F EuVECA, an Austrian early-stage venture capital fund that supports technology companies founded or led by women entrepreneurs. It addresses the persistent gender gap in venture finance by channelling capital to innovative women-led startups, helping them scale and succeed in a traditionally male-dominated space. The investment thus supports SDG 5, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in entrepreneurship and innovation.



8.2.6. Access to quality education



The Bank's investments in quality education have a significant positive social impact through building new schools or improving education systems. The Bank's loans benefit a broad range of projects, from kindergartens to primary and secondary schools, up to tertiary education, vocational training and research. The Bank also finances other projects linked to education, like music schools and libraries, student housing at educational institutions, student loans or sports facilities managed by educational institutions.

Education is recognised as a fundamental human right. The impact of Bank investment in this area is potentially huge, with external benefits for society and the broader economy – mainly for literacy, skills development and economic advancement.

In 2024, the Bank committed €6.4 billion in new financing for education, enabling projects with a total investment value of €55.6 billion. This directly benefited educational systems across the world, helping to expand and modernise learning environments. The EIF also played a key role, signing €86 million in new equity operations and €44 million in debt operations, mobilising a combined €902 million in investments in education.

Thanks to these initiatives, the EIB Group estimates that its 2024 financing enabled 368 000 additional students to be educated in newly built or refurbished facilities, and created 148 000 additional places in schools and universities. Through these projects, the EIB Group delivered tangible improvements to educational infrastructure and access that also align with the objectives of **SDG 4** (quality education).

Noteworthy educational projects:

- The Bank loaned **€143 million to the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation**, marking the second investment in the project. The funds will pay for research and R&D equipment through 2030 for public higher education institutions and research centres. The project should improve innovation in Greece and bolster competitiveness, in line with Greece's **National Smart Specialisation Strategy**. By helping create jobs for young researchers, it also aims to reduce brain drain.
- The Bank co-funded the construction of **new student residences and the expansion of academic facilities at the Cyprus University of Technology**, providing affordable housing and improving educational opportunities for university students.
- The EIF announced **three guarantee agreements that will increase education financing**. New projects supported by the guarantee agreements will improve conditions for about 40 000 students in Germany and Spain. The guarantees were made possible by the InvestEU **Skills and Education Portfolio Guarantee Product**.

France: New and better primary schools

The Bank signed a **€180 million loan with the city of Toulouse, France, to build, expand or refurbish** over 100 000 m² of educational facilities serving more than 10 000 schoolchildren. The public pre-primary and primary schools financed under the project will be energy efficient and climate resilient, and will offer better learning environments. The infrastructure upgrades will help the city's network of public pre-primary and primary schools meet years of rising demand.



8.2.7. Financial inclusion



The EIB Group is committed to improving financial inclusion, particularly for small businesses and micro-entrepreneurs, because greater access to finance and financial products can catalyse economic development. The EIB Group works with microfinance institutions and financial intermediaries to provide tailored financial solutions – designed to strengthen digital platforms, improve financial literacy and give small business owners more access to the financial services they need.

By stimulating entrepreneurship and fostering inclusive growth, the EIB Group helps underserved populations improve their livelihoods. In particular by:

- increasing the number of microfinance loans disbursed;
- increasing the number of women and young people accessing financial services;
- growing the number of small businesses receiving support.

For example, in 2024, the Bank signed a [€20 million financing arrangement with the Banque pour le Commerce et l'Industrie \(BCI\) in Mauritania](#) to help BCI provide loans to small businesses (especially those employing young people and women), boosting employment and encouraging entrepreneurship.

Similarly, in February 2024, the [EIF and BT Microfinantare IFN committed to increasing an InvestEU guarantee, which will result in €140 million in funds for 10 000 microbusinesses](#). The objective is to improve finance for small businesses, especially for those with annual turnover under €200 000.

8.2.8. A just transition focusing on resilience for workers, communities and territories



The Bank is committed to ensuring that the transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy creates opportunities and shared benefits for the workers, communities and regions most affected by decarbonisation. Through its EU and global operations, the Bank supports inclusive economic development and community resilience, helping people adapt to new realities while promoting long-term prosperity. The Bank also prioritises skills development and worker empowerment in regions undergoing economic transformation.

At the heart of this commitment is the Bank's role in the European Union's [Just Transition Mechanism](#).¹ This mechanism helps EU regions and workers shift away from carbon-intensive industries by financing new economic opportunities, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency projects and sustainable infrastructure. It has three key pillars: a fund for regional development, an investment scheme under InvestEU and a loan facility that blends Bank loans with EU grants.

Beyond the European Union, the least developed countries (many of them in Africa) have some of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions. And yet they are disproportionately affected by climate change – as are small island states and fragile countries. The most marginalised people risk losing their homes and land, and often live in the least desirable areas with the highest risk of climate events like mudslides, contaminated water and flooding. Similarly, it is often the poorest people who lose their jobs as governments incentivise industry to shift to more sustainable economic activities. This is why, outside the European Union, [EIB Global has been the first international financial institution to couple a just transition with just resilience approach](#) to support the countries and people most affected by climate change or climate adaptation actions, notably in least developed countries, fragile and conflict-affected states, and small island developing states. This combined approach contributes to building low-carbon and climate-resilient societies.

To back a just transition, the Bank's development arm EIB Global supports workers affected by the green transition and finances low-carbon infrastructure, energy efficiency, renewable energy, the development of small and medium-sized companies, education, training and retraining, and environmental rehabilitation.² It supports Just Energy Transition Partnerships, for example [in South Africa](#), and is working alongside Team Europe initiatives to end coal-based energy production. Moreover, EIB Global targets climate adaptation to help vulnerable groups and those who depend on natural resources and ecosystems for their livelihoods: indigenous people, women, young people, migrants and other groups that disproportionately bear the burden of climate change.

1. See [Supporting the Just Transition Mechanism – comprehensive proposal of the EIB Group](#).

2. For more information, see [EIB Global's approach to a just transition and just resilience](#).

8.3. PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY EIB GROUP FINANCING

8.3.1. Description of affected communities

At the heart of the EIB Group's mission to improve lives is a clear understanding of who is impacted by its financing, directly or indirectly. This includes those who benefit from Bank-supported projects and those who may be adversely affected.

To identify and safeguard these communities, the Bank applies the EU legal concept of "the public concerned" and the human rights concept of "rights-holders."³ In the context of Bank-financed projects, rights-holders may include local community members, workers, indigenous peoples, and others who are actually or potentially affected. As described in the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), organisations or entities (like states, trade unions or religious institutions) are not human rights-holders, but may act in a representative capacity for individuals who are. This approach ensures that the Bank's engagement and safeguards are inclusive, rights-based and focused on those most impacted by its operations.

8.3.2. Vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples

The EIB Group values the principles of non-discrimination and equality for all.⁴ It recognises that some individuals or groups may be subject to structural and/or systematic discrimination based on socioeconomic characteristics⁵ in a way that may be further compounded by critical events, such as natural disasters or public health crises. Discrimination, entrenched social and gender roles and attitudes, gender-based violence and a lack of access to decision-making can weaken the resilience of certain individuals and groups and render them disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse effects of investment projects. This understanding of vulnerability informs the Bank's approach to affected communities.

Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable. In line with the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)⁶ the Bank takes a specific approach when a project may impact indigenous people, outlined further below. Women's particular vulnerability is also considered when mitigating projects' impact, for example through the EIB Group's zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence and harassment.⁷

Contexts can also render communities vulnerable. Investing in fragile and conflict-affected contexts is particularly challenging due to the lack of adequate data and analytics, higher levels of risk and uncertainty, as well as a weaker legal and regulatory environment. This can mean higher risk for communities affected by projects financed in these contexts.

3. See Standard 2 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

4. See paragraphs 2.8 and 2.9 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

5. Such socioeconomic characteristics include, but are not limited to, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, caste, racial, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, genetic features, age, birth, disability, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, activism, membership of a national minority, affiliation with a union or any other form of workers' organisation, property, nationality, language, marital or family status, health status, or migrant or economic status.

6. Standard 2 (Stakeholder Engagement) (paragraph 6), Standard 4 (Biodiversity and Ecosystems) (paragraphs 11, 34 and 41), Standard 6 (Involuntary Resettlement) (paragraphs 45 and 54) and Standard 7 (Vulnerable Groups, Indigenous Peoples and Gender).

7. As outlined in paragraph 2.11 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

8.4. POLICIES RELATED TO AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

8.4.1. The EIB Group in the broader EU policy context

The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy sets out the EIB Group's approach towards understanding the impact it has on affected communities. In promoting social inclusion and development, equal opportunities and fair working conditions, the EIB Group supports the relevant EU social policies and the European Pillar of Social Rights.⁸ Other policies that address the negative impact on affected communities include the EIB Group Complaints Mechanism Policy and the EIB Group Transparency Policy (supplemented for the EIF by the EIF Transparency Policy). Together, these ensure that the EIB Group's approach is consistent with international frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. For more information, see the information note, *The European Investment Bank's approach to human rights*.

8.4.2. Involuntary resettlement

The EIB Group opposes forced displacement resulting from the projects it finances. Its position is that movements of people must be humane, safe, legal and based on sustainable choices which enhance economic prospects for those affected.⁹

The Bank's project promoters should prioritise alternatives that prevent displacement. Relocations must be minimised and managed in a way that protects the rights and well-being of affected individuals.¹⁰

To ensure this, promoters must consult with affected people, provide timely and transparent information, and involve them in planning and decision-making. They are also required to offer fair compensation for lost assets at full replacement cost, ensure access to grievance mechanisms and, where appropriate, treat resettlement as a development opportunity that enables displaced persons to benefit directly from the project.¹¹

8.4.3. Vulnerable groups

The Bank is committed to addressing inequalities and seeking to ensure that vulnerable individuals and groups are not left behind in the projects it finances. Its objective is to promote equitable access to project benefits and ensure that those who may be marginalised, discriminated against or at risk of exclusion are effectively protected and supported.¹²

For projects outside the European Union, promoters are required to assess whether certain groups – based on socioeconomic characteristics such as gender, ethnicity or disability – may be disproportionately affected or excluded from project benefits.¹³ This analysis then forms the basis of the measures designed to minimise the negative impact on these vulnerable groups.

8. Preamble 10 of *The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy*.

9. See paragraph 2.14 of *The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy*.

10. See Standard 6 (Involuntary Resettlement), paragraph 3 of the *European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards*.

11. See Standard 6, paragraph 4(e) of the *European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards*.

12. See Standard 7 (Vulnerable Groups, Indigenous Peoples and Gender), paragraph 6 of the *European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards*.

13. See Standard 7, paragraphs 21-22 of the *European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards*.

8.4.4. Indigenous peoples

To promote in the projects it finances full respect for the rights, identity, culture and livelihoods of indigenous peoples, the EIB Group may require promoters to negotiate in good faith with indigenous peoples affected by a project and obtain their Free, Prior and Informed Consent when required, respect the rights of indigenous communities in voluntary isolation and adhere to the principle of no contact unless the contact is at the initiative of the peoples in isolation.¹⁴

The impact of Bank-financed projects on indigenous peoples is also addressed in the context of its [standards on stakeholder engagement, biodiversity and ecosystems, involuntary resettlement and cultural heritage](#).

8.4.5. Gender

The “Protect” pillar of [EIB Group Gender Action Plans](#) seeks to ensure that operations do not reinforce or overlook gender inequalities. This includes identifying and mitigating gender-specific risks, such as gender-based violence and harassment, during project appraisal and implementation.

8.4.6. How the EIB approaches fragility and conflict

The EIB Group seeks to build peaceful and stable societies through activities in fragile states that create jobs, stability and long-term prosperity. It supports recovery in post-conflict and post-disaster situations by fostering social inclusion and cohesion, as well as environmental remediation.¹⁵ To address development challenges in fragile environments, the Bank emphasises inclusive partnerships at all levels, from global to local. It aligns with other development institutions through targeted strategies and partnerships that maximise impact in conflict-affected areas.

The [EIB Strategic Approach to Fragility and Conflict](#) (2022-2027) outlines a vision aligned with the European Union’s commitment to peace and the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#), enhancing collaboration under the [Team Europe initiative](#) and with international partners. This strategy also responds to EU policy frameworks such as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ([NDICI – Global Europe programme](#)), which guides the Bank’s operations outside the European Union. It improves coordination and makes more efficient use of local offices and targeted investment in fragile regions.

8.4.7. A human rights-based approach

To the best of its knowledge, the EIB Group will not finance any project that limits individual or collective rights or violates human rights.¹⁶ Specifically, the EIB Group does not tolerate forced evictions, gender-based violence and harassment, or any form of retaliation or intimidation. Where such risks are identified, the Bank takes appropriate follow-up action.

The Bank explains this approach in the [The European Investment Bank’s approach to human rights - information note](#). This information note serves two primary purposes: first, to inform involved parties of the Bank’s commitment to respecting and promoting human rights in its lending operations; and second, to describe the Bank’s approach to identifying, avoiding and addressing human rights risks and

14. When required by Standard 7 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

15. As outlined in paragraph 2.15 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

16. As outlined in paragraph 4.5 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

effects. It explains that, rather than adopting a stand-alone human rights policy, the Bank has integrated a human rights-responsive approach throughout its policies and standards, in particular the EIB Group Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework.

The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy is guided by key international and regional human rights frameworks, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the EU global human rights sanctions regime.¹⁷

Furthermore, the Bank expects project promoters to fulfil their human rights responsibilities by integrating human rights considerations into their environmental and social due diligence processes.¹⁸ This expectation extends across the project lifecycle and applies to all sectors and places in which the Bank operates.

The information note also contextualises the Bank's approach within the broader international human rights landscape. Annex B of the note lists the human rights instruments referenced in the European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards, reinforcing the Bank's alignment with globally recognised norms and principles.



17. Paragraph 4.5 of The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy.

18. As outlined in paragraph 3.2 of The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy.

8.5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS FOR AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND DOWNSTREAM VALUE CHAIN WORKERS

8.5.1. Stakeholder engagement

The EIB Group has an engagement process that may apply to all types of stakeholders, such as affected communities.

Standard 2 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), where applicable, requires project promoters to lead engagement processes that are systematic, constructive, inclusive, transparent and respectful of human rights. These processes are essential to encouraging projects to be designed and implemented in a way that reflects the needs and concerns of affected communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Promoters are responsible for identifying all relevant stakeholders – those who may be directly or indirectly affected by a project, or those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively – and engaging with them early in the project lifecycle. This includes individuals, affected communities, project workers¹⁹ and their legitimate representatives.²⁰ Engagement must begin at a stage that allows stakeholders to meaningfully influence decisions. Engagement must be transparent and continuous.

Where national authorities are formally responsible for engagement, promoters are expected to collaborate closely with them to ensure that the outcomes align with the Bank's standards.

Promoting engagement that responds to human rights issues

Where applicable, promoters must conduct engagement in a manner that respects human rights, including the rights to privacy, data protection and freedom of expression. The process must be free from intimidation, coercion or retaliation, especially for those who raise concerns about the project. This includes human rights defenders, environmental activists and vulnerable individuals.²¹

Inclusive and equitable participation

Where applicable, promoters are expected to ensure the participation of all stakeholder groups, including those who are vulnerable, marginalised or traditionally excluded. This includes adapting communication methods to overcome barriers related to gender, literacy, disability or cultural context.²²

Where applicable, promoters must also identify and prioritise groups that may be disproportionately affected by a project's impact. They are required to engage with these groups directly or through legitimate representatives, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed.

In addition and where applicable, promoters must take the necessary measures to identify and avoid potential project risks and outcomes that would affect the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable, marginalised or discriminated persons and groups, and indigenous peoples. When avoiding an impact is not feasible, they must reduce, minimise, mitigate or effectively compensate people or find a remedy. As relevant, promoters must seek to help affected groups to adapt to the impact, and give them equal opportunity to voice their opinions about proposed activities and mitigation measures that might affect them.

19. For more information on project workers and workers in the downstream value chain more generally, see section 9.3. of this report.

20. Standard 2 (Stakeholder Engagement) of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

21. Standard 2, paragraph 9 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

22. Standard 2, paragraph 10; and Standard 7, paragraph 5 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

Transparent and informed dialogue

Where applicable, to support meaningful participation, promoters must provide stakeholders with timely and accessible information. This includes:

- the purpose, scope and timeline of the project;
- potential environmental, social and climate-related effects;
- mitigation and compensation measures;
- opportunities for public consultation and participation;
- grievance mechanisms at the project and EIB Group levels and how to access them;
- any potential benefit-sharing and added value for affected communities, where applicable.²³

Information must be shared in formats that are understandable and culturally appropriate, including for people with limited literacy or special needs. Promoters must also disclose any significant changes to the project that could affect stakeholders, and explain how these changes will be managed.

Responsiveness

Where applicable, promoters are expected to disclose how stakeholder feedback has influenced project design and implementation. This includes sharing information on mitigation or compensation measures or explaining why certain suggestions could not be adopted.²⁴ Promoters must also inform affected groups about the grievance mechanism itself: how it works, how to access it and what to expect from the process.

Where project changes result in new or increased environmental, social or climate-related risks, promoters must update stakeholders and engage with them on revised mitigation strategies.²⁵

Special considerations for indigenous peoples

Where applicable, and where indigenous peoples are affected, promoters must engage in culturally appropriate and inclusive consultations. This includes respecting customary laws and traditional authorities, and (where required) obtaining **Free, Prior and Informed Consent**. Engagement should begin early and continue throughout the project cycle.²⁶

8.5.2. Grievance mechanisms

The EIB Group seeks to ensure that affected communities have accessible, trusted and effective channels to raise concerns about Bank-financed projects. While the Bank maintains its own institutional grievance mechanisms (see Chapter 1, “General information”), project promoters play a central role in establishing and managing grievance processes at the project level.

Promoter-led grievance mechanisms

Promoters may be required to establish a project grievance mechanism as early as possible in the project cycle.²⁷ This mechanism must be accessible to all concerned parties and capable of receiving and addressing concerns throughout the life of the project.²⁸ It should be designed to support continuous dialogue, allowing stakeholders to express their views on project impacts, risks and mitigation measures. Promoters must also ensure that legitimate representatives – such as community leaders, civil

23. Standard 1 (Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks) of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

24. Standard 2, paragraphs 40–41 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

25. Standard 2, paragraph 35 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

26. Standard 7 (Vulnerable Groups, Indigenous Peoples and Gender) of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

27. Where applicable, pursuant to standard 2, paragraph 22 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

28. Standard 2, paragraph 22 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

society organisations or trade unions – can facilitate communication between affected communities and the project team.²⁹

Ongoing monitoring and improvement

To ensure the effectiveness of grievance mechanisms, promoters may be required to regularly monitor the stakeholder engagement process. This includes tracking the types of concerns raised, how they are addressed, and whether the process is trusted by affected communities. Whenever feasible, third-party monitoring (by civil society, community-based organisations or independent experts) is encouraged to enhance transparency and accountability.³⁰

Protection against retaliation

The EIB Group has a zero-tolerance policy for retaliation, harassment or intimidation against individuals who raise concerns. Promoters are expected to uphold this, and take appropriate action if such incidents occur. This is especially important for protecting human rights defenders and others who may be at risk due to their participation in the grievance process.³¹



29. Standard 2, paragraph 18 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

30. Standard 2, paragraph 18 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

31. Paragraph 4.5 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

8.6. PREVENTING AND MANAGING THE IMPACT ON AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The Bank applies a risk-based approach in conducting environmental and social due diligence, led from within its Projects Directorate. A dedicated team of sector specialists from diverse academic and professional backgrounds leads the assessment of projects, including related environmental and social risks.

These specialists possess deep technical knowledge in their respective sectors (energy, transport, etc.) and are adept in the social and human rights dimensions relevant to their fields. They may also recruit the support of social experts, particularly for higher risk projects. Social experts have specialised knowledge on issues like resettlement, labour rights, conflict sensitivity, supply chain risks, gender equality and migration.

EIB Global is also recruiting social specialists to its regional offices outside the European Union to make its local presence more effective. These locally based experts contribute to ongoing project monitoring and engagement, with the aim of ensuring that affected communities are meaningfully involved and that social impact is effectively managed throughout the project lifecycle.

At the policy level, the Environment, Climate and Social Office of the Projects Directorate provides strategic oversight and safeguards development, procedural guidance and capacity building. This office plays a central role in embedding human rights principles across the Bank's operations.

8.6.1. Assessing and preventing potential negative effects

In line with the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), the Bank seeks to identify and understand the risks to human rights of communities affected by the projects it finances, to avoid and address these risks, and to enable their remediation where necessary.

Avoid causing or contributing to adverse impact

The Bank is committed to preventing harm to affected communities by applying a forward-looking, risk-based approach to environmental and social due diligence. This approach is grounded in international standards, including the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), and is designed to identify and avoid potential adverse impacts before they occur.

Each project financed by the Bank undergoes a comprehensive risk assessment. This assessment identifies environmental, climate and social risks, including those related to human rights. The Bank uses this process to seek to ensure that projects are designed in a way that avoids causing or contributing to harm, particularly in vulnerable or high-risk contexts.

In fragile and conflict-affected settings, the risk of adverse impacts is heightened. These situations can range from:

- areas at risk of conflict or institutional collapse;
- regions experiencing intense violence;
- places beginning to recover and stabilise;
- contexts facing political or economic challenges.

Where applicable, the Bank conducts detailed context analysis that identifies various groups affected by the project. Based on this analysis, the Bank helps promoters to design and implement projects that are strategic, high-impact and sensitive to conflict dynamics, ensuring they are appropriate for the specific context. The Bank also strives to collaborate with other financial institutions to better understand how conflict affects the private sector and sustainable investments.

Minimise and mitigate unavoidable negative effects

Where negative effects cannot be entirely avoided, the EIB Group applies its [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#), which seek to ensure that harm is minimised in line with international good practice. Integrated impact assessments can be used to evaluate environmental, climate and social risks in a holistic manner and to develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

The Bank's due diligence is human rights-responsive and tailored to the specific risks of each project. Taking a risk-based approach, it seeks to ensure continuous monitoring throughout the project lifecycle so that mitigation measures remain effective and emerging risks are addressed in a timely manner.

Promote access to grievance mechanisms and remedy

The Bank is committed to providing affected communities ways to remedy any negative effects from projects. In line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Bank supports the establishment and use of effective grievance mechanisms that allow individuals and communities to raise concerns and seek redress.

8.7. ACTIONS TO REMEDIATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS

8.7.1. Actions led by the promoter

Promoters are required³² to assess whether the project may disproportionately affect individuals or groups who are vulnerable, marginalised or at risk of exclusion. If such risks are identified, promoters are required to conduct further social or gender analysis to better understand these dynamics. To support this process, qualified specialists can be engaged as needed to ensure the analysis is robust and contextually appropriate. Based on the understanding gained through such studies, promoters must identify and implement measures to avoid, mitigate or remedy negative impacts and enhance positive outcomes.

8.7.2. Actions led by the Bank

During project implementation, the Bank monitors project performance through a risk-based approach, drawing on promoter reports, independent assessments and site visits. Where necessary, it engages local or international experts to strengthen oversight, conduct additional studies and support promoters as they address emerging issues.

This monitoring helps to ensure that promoters identify and assess potentially adverse consequences early, take steps to avoid or mitigate that impact, and ensure that effective mechanisms are in place to provide remedy when harm occurs. This can include incorporating tailored measures into Environmental and Social Management Plans³³ to ensure that vulnerable or marginalised groups are not disproportionately affected and can benefit from the project.

32. Where the requirements of Standard 7 (Vulnerable Groups, Indigenous Peoples and Gender) of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) are applicable.

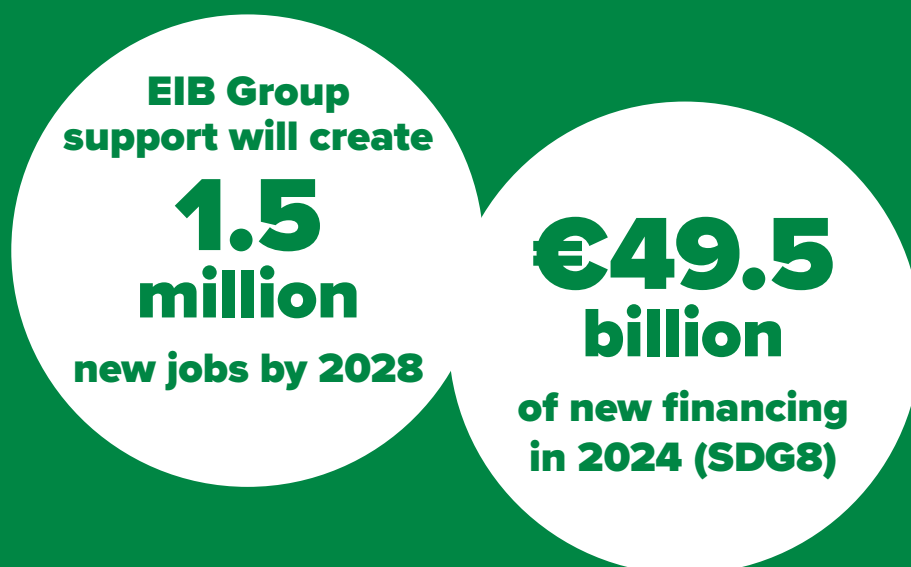
33. See Standard 1 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).



9. BOOSTING QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

9.1. KEY MESSAGES

Workers' rights are the foundation of a fair, just and prosperous society, ensuring that individuals are treated with dignity and respect. These rights provide a foundation for economic growth by improving working conditions, boosting productivity and creating consumer demand, leading to more and better jobs. They are a key component of responsible business and sustainable finance and development.



“ The EIB Group leverages its financing to foster employment and economic empowerment, particularly for groups such as women that face structural disadvantages in the labour market. ”

9.1.1. EIB Group and EU commitments

The EIB Group leverages its financing to foster employment and economic empowerment, particularly for groups such as women that face structural disadvantages in the labour market. The Bank does so through its Gender Action Plan, by spearheading initiatives such as the [Women Climate Leaders Network](#) and participating in the [2X Challenge](#). The EIF supports broader EU efforts (like [InvestEU](#) and [Horizon Europe](#)) to channel more capital toward women-led and gender-diverse companies, microfinance institutions and social impact investors that offer loans and mentoring to women entrepreneurs, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It partners with investment fund managers that apply a gender lens – meaning they actively take gender into account when making investment decisions, from portfolio company leadership to product impact.

9.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

The EIB Group strives to ensure that the workers involved in the projects it finances and transactions it engages in benefit from fair conditions, decent wages and the protection of their labour rights. It has embedded the [principles of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#) and the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) into its policy framework, management systems and approach to protecting workers' rights. Its risk-based approach to due diligence aims to protect the rights of workers impacted by EIB Group-financed activities, through the application of its Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework. Through its [public register](#) of environmental and social data sheets the Bank communicates the impact individual projects have on labour rights (where relevant). This is complemented by the Bank's efforts to ensure workers in the value chain have remedy and grievance mechanisms available to them.

9.1.3. Key policies and standards

Several key instruments reflect the EIB Group's commitment to protecting workers' rights and economically empowering vulnerable or marginalised groups through better employment opportunities.

EIB Group:

- [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#)
- [EIB Group Transparency Policy](#)
- [EIB Group Complaints Mechanism Policy](#)
- [The EIB Group Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment](#)

European Investment Bank:

- Standards 8, 9 and 11 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#)
- [The European Investment Bank's approach to human rights - Information note](#)

European Investment Fund:

- [EIF Environmental, Social & Governance Principles](#)
- [EIF Transparency Policy](#)

9.1.4. Illustration of projects financed

- A Bank loan of €102 million to finance the operations of commodities exporter ETC Group operations and strengthen its supply chain in Africa, in part by providing better support services to local and female farmers. The project aims to help 150 000 women farmers to increase their productivity by strengthening their agricultural practices.
- An EIF investment of €30 million in Sistafund, a venture capital fund to support startups led by women entrepreneurs and gender-balanced teams.
- An EIF guarantee for the Catalan Finance Institute (ICF) in Spain to leverage the funds to provide €64 million in new lending to social enterprises and creative or cultural businesses. The goal is to finance smaller projects that traditionally struggle to find credit.
- An EIF investment of €30 million in Booster Capital Fund, a private equity fund that targets smaller and medium-sized companies, primarily in Romania and Hungary, to enhance competitiveness, create jobs and stimulate regional development in emerging European markets.

9.2. HOW THE EIB GROUP SUPPORTS AND PROTECTS WORKERS

9.2.1. Quality employment for youth and women



Under its Strategy on Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment and its Gender Action Plan, the EIB Group promotes quality employment and leadership opportunities for women – especially in industries and countries where they are underrepresented in the workforce and management. For example, in 2024 the EIB Group invested in companies and projects in the energy, bioeconomy, financial and transport sectors, including measures to address gender biases in recruitment, retention and career progression. To further gender equality, the EIB Group works with local banks, microfinance institutions, and private equity funds in line with the 2X Challenge criteria.

9.2.1.1. Getting capital to female entrepreneurs and women-led firms

Women entrepreneurs worldwide continue to face financial barriers, despite contributing to economic growth and innovation. According to the Global Impact Investing Network report [In Focus: Gender and Impact Investing in 2024](#), investment that supports gender equality is growing. Women-led enterprises, however, still face a \$1.7 trillion financing gap. Closing this gap could [significantly boost global economic output](#), but systemic constraints persist.

In 2024, the Bank financed 18 operations totalling €387 million for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Since 2021, 331 women entrepreneurs and 284 women-led businesses have benefited from EIB Group finance. That number grows when the Bank’s technical assistance and advisory programmes, like the [African Women Rising Initiative](#) (2021-2023), are taken into account. Once these signed operations are fully allocated, the total impact is expected to more than double.

9.2.1.2. Employment opportunities for vulnerable groups

In Tunisia, the Bank has set up a [€170 million Tunisia Economic Recovery](#) credit line to improve credit for microenterprises, SMEs and mid-caps. At least 30% of the project will directly support SMEs that are owned by, or provide leadership, employment and training opportunities to women, young people, people with disabilities and the unemployed, as well as people in the most vulnerable regions of the country. Linking public sector social inclusion initiatives with private sector firms, the operation will improve the ability of women and other vulnerable groups to find work.

The Bank provided [€60 million in financing, plus technical assistance](#), to Banca Etica in Italy, which will lend the funds on to social cooperatives and associations supporting refugees, women-led businesses and businesses in cohesion regions. Funds devoted to refugees will pay for professional training, jobs and entrepreneurship.

9.2.1.3. Improving women's access to equity finance

In 2024, the EIF initiated two major programmes that support women in finance and female entrepreneurs.

The EIF, together with EIB Advisory and the European Commission, started the **Empowering Equity Mentorship Programme** in March 2024. Designed under the broader InvestEU Empowering Equity framework, the initiative connects female investment professionals at the beginning of their career with seasoned mentors in venture capital, private equity and finance. The programme has six mentors and offers free advice in seven areas (to be expanded over time), including fundraising; fund management; environmental, social and governance; and career planning.

In June, the EIF and the EIB Institute opened the **Empowering Equity Academy**, targeting female students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and sustainable development fields. This joint programme offers hybrid training, workshops and networking events, and culminates with major EIF industry events, like the venture capital conference **Ugly Duck**, which nurtures the next generation of women in venture finance.

9.2.1.4. Investing in women and young businesses in Africa

The Bank also signed several agreements in 2024.

EIB Global and Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) signed a **€230 million agreement** to increase finance for microenterprises and SMEs. These firms play a vital role in economic growth and job creation, accounting for over 90% of the total workforce in Kenya. However, these businesses often have difficulty finding credit, especially companies run by young people. Under the agreement, KCB will use targeted financial products to reach these beneficiaries and improve investment in the private sector, which is central to creating jobs and improving incomes.

The Bank signed a contract to provide **€15 million in financing for KCB** to improve credit for micro- and small enterprises in Kenya. The initiative targets female entrepreneurs and provides access to financial services for women, ultimately improving economic growth and reducing poverty.

9.2.1.5. Empowering women in agriculture

Farms managed by women produce **roughly 24% less** than those managed by men, even when farms are roughly the same size. This is because women have less access to knowledge, land, credit and digital tools, and bear a higher unpaid care burden. Improving the productivity of female-run farms and raising women's wages in the agri-food industry would boost global GDP by 1% and lift **45 million people out of food insecurity**. But women farmers in the European Union and beyond receive only a small share of agricultural financing, and often do not enjoy the same access to agricultural supplies that could increase productivity.

The Bank financed six operations in 2024 that will promote more sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices and better support female farmers and entrepreneurs. These investments improve opportunities in rural economies, helping ensure that women can fully participate in and benefit from sustainable agricultural development.

In December, the EIB Group **announced a €3 billion loan** to support agriculture and bioeconomy activities across Europe, focusing on women farmers, young farmers and green investments.

9.2.1.6. Promoting equal employment opportunities for women in the European Union

Companies that support women's participation and leadership have a broader talent pool and more inclusive workplaces. Improvements in gender equality could create **an additional 10.5 million jobs in 2050**. The Bank actively invests in clients that promote women's employment and offer them leadership opportunities in the European Union. In 2024 it financed 15 such operations, investing a total of €1.73 billion to support initiatives that increase female workforce participation, improve their access to leadership roles and promote inclusive workplace policies.

9.2.2. Collective initiative and partnerships

The EIB Group engages in global partnerships and collective initiatives to promote gender equality, high-quality employment that is more inclusive and labour rights across industries.

9.2.2.1. 2X Challenge

The Bank contributed to the creation of **2X Global**, an organisation that helps financiers and other investors vet projects according to the impact investments have on female entrepreneurship, employment and opportunities. It was the first multilateral development bank to join the **2X Challenge**, which was founded in 2018 to create and encourage the use of a common set of criteria for gender lens investing (the **2X Criteria**).

The 2X Criteria are closely aligned with the Bank's commitment to further gender equality and to encourage diversity within its own organisation and the companies it supports. The Bank can help clients that meet the 2X Criteria qualify for the right to brand projects as part of the 2X Challenge, a global effort to improve investment in female entrepreneurs and companies led by women.

9.2.2.2. Multilateral development bank working groups

The Bank regularly participates in working groups and compares its practices with those of its peers, for example by exchanging and collaborating on standards or policies that reduce the risk of forced labour in promoter supply chains, or those that improve gender equality or better protect vulnerable groups.

9.2.2.3. Women Climate Leaders Network

In 2024, the EIB Group founded the **Women Climate Leaders Network**, which brings together women who have shown exceptional leadership in driving climate action. Members, which come from all 27 EU countries, are active in diverse areas of the private sector. The network leverages these women's leadership in climate action and environmental sustainability to:

- promote networking among high-level female leaders on issues of critical importance to climate mitigation and adaptation, the environment and sustainability in Europe and beyond;
- bring together ideas for business models, financial products, non-financial reporting and new technologies and innovation that support climate action;
- boost the visibility of women who are thought leaders for climate action, promote the environment and sustainability in the European Union and globally, and further encourage women's leadership;
- raise awareness on how gender and climate intersect through discussions and knowledge sharing.

The network recognises that more diverse leadership in companies results in more and better climate and sustainability efforts. Companies with gender-diverse boards are **60% more likely to reduce energy consumption and 40% more likely to cut greenhouse gas emissions.**

9.2.2.4. Networks to increase female employment in transport

The Bank also works with other institutions on how to increase female employment. One example is the joint report **Addressing Barriers to Women’s Participation in Transport: Global, ECA, and MENA Perspectives**, which covers global trends and provides in-depth analysis of women’s roles in transport in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Women make up a relatively small share of transport workers, which prevents their challenges and perspectives from being taken into account when transport projects are designed. Failure to make transport female friendly undermines economic growth. This report influenced the creation of a new group, the **Women in Transport Network**, which was founded in 2025 by government officials, private and public industry leaders, and representatives of international organisations.

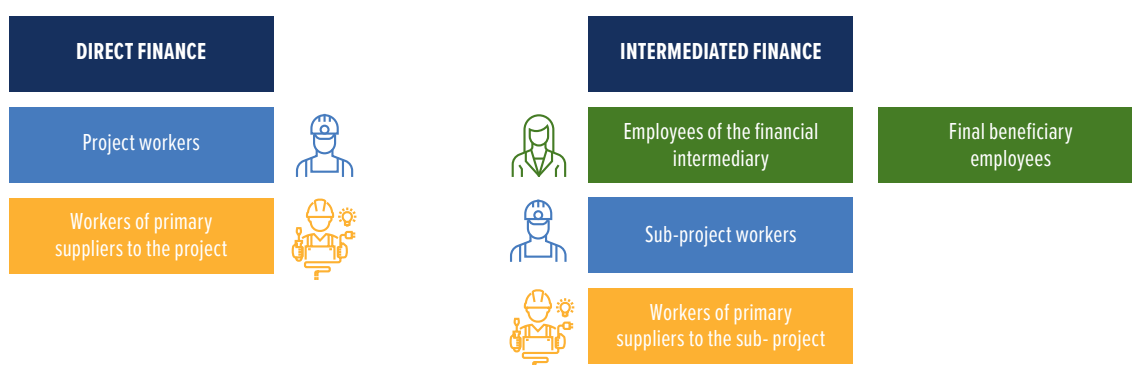
9.3. THE IMPACT OF EIB GROUP PROJECTS ON WORKERS

9.3.1. Who is covered

Through its direct finance, the Bank has an impact on workers employed in projects and sub-projects¹ and those employed by primary suppliers.² Through its intermediated finance, the EIB Group has an impact on employees of its intermediaries, and on employees at companies that benefit from the finance directly or indirectly (startups, microenterprises, social enterprises, etc.).

All of these individuals are workers in what is called the downstream value chain.

FIGURE 1: WORKERS IN THE EIB GROUP DOWNSTREAM VALUE CHAIN



Source: EIB Group

1. This includes people employed or engaged directly by the promoter (direct workers) and people employed or engaged through third parties to perform work related to core functions of the project, regardless of location (third-party workers).
 2. Group covered by Standard 8, paragraphs 6 and 56-59 and Standard 9, paragraphs 68-69 of the **European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards**.

9.3.2. Vulnerable workers in the downstream value chain

The EIB Group recognises that certain workers in the downstream value chain are more vulnerable than others, because of their specific socioeconomic conditions³ and/or because of the higher risk of forced or child labour in the supply chain for certain sectors, such as risks of forced labour associated with the production of certain components of solar panels like polysilicon.

The Bank takes a risk-based approach per project that considers these factors, applying a method known as a mitigation hierarchy to protect workers in the downstream value chain. The mitigation hierarchy is used to avoid causing or contributing to negative impacts, to minimise such impacts where they are unavoidable, and to ensure that people have access to grievance and remedy mechanisms.

Similarly, the EIF assesses a range of factors, including any negative media or reputational concerns related to the treatment of workers by its financial intermediaries or fund managers. Such issues are taken into account in its investment decisions to ensure alignment with its ethical standards and responsible investment principles.

9.4. POLICIES RELATED TO WORKERS IN THE DOWNSTREAM VALUE CHAIN

9.4.1. EIB Group guidelines

9.4.1.1. The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy

The Bank does not tolerate forced and child labour, and takes measures to seek to protect workers from discrimination, exploitation, any form of harassment, violence or violation of core labour rights in the projects it finances. The Bank considers the right of workers to fair and just working conditions, to life and to integrity as core elements of its activities.⁴

9.4.1.2. European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards

The Bank's strong labour and social standards align with international labour rights frameworks, including the [fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization](#) and the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#).

Standard 8 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#) (Labour Rights) promotes the fair and dignified treatment of all project workers. When it applies, it requires promoters to ensure that Bank-financed projects have policies in place that protect key labour rights (in particular, policies to prevent and address any form of violence, harassment, bullying, intimidation or exploitation, including any form of gender-based violence or harassment at project level)⁵ and ensure the presence of accessible and effective grievance mechanisms. Standard 8 also details specific requirements to protect third-party workers and those in the primary supply chain. These measures embed respect for labour and human rights across all areas of the project and suppliers.

3. Such as sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, caste, racial, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, genetic features, age, birth, disability, religion or belief, political or any other affiliation, activism, membership of a national minority, affiliation with a union or any other form of workers' organisation, property, nationality, language, marital or family status, health status, migrant status or economic status.

4. See paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13 of [The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy](#).

5. Standard 8, paragraph 36 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

Standard 9 (**Health, Safety and Security**) encourages promoters to put in place robust systems to safeguard worker health and safety. This includes risk management, training, protective equipment, access to sanitation, and secure accommodation, as well as clear procedures for reporting incidents and addressing grievances. Like Standard 8, it also outlines specific requirements regarding third-party workers and workers in the primary supply chain.

Standard 11 (**Intermediated Finance**) also promotes the labour rights and the right to a safe and healthy working environment for employees of the Bank's financial intermediaries.

These standards collectively reinforce the Bank's commitment to responsible business and to protect workers throughout the project lifecycle. For further information on the Bank's approach to human rights, including in respect of downstream value chain workers, please also see Chapter 8, "Supporting communities and cohesion" and the information note [The European Investment Bank's Approach to Human Rights](#).

9.4.1.3. The EIF's commitment to human rights and stakeholder engagement

Under the [EIF Transparency Policy](#), the EIF adheres to the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) and the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#). EIF partners and investees uphold standards that protect workers' rights, prohibit child and forced labour, and ensure safe working conditions.

The EIF also advocates under its transparency policy that beneficiaries of its funding provide transparent consultation and grievance mechanisms. These social principles reflect the EIF's broader commitment to responsible investment practices that not only mitigate social risks (such as violations of human rights or labour rights, or when harm is caused to disadvantaged groups), but also foster social cohesion and economic resilience across the European Union.

9.4.2. Zero tolerance of child and forced labour

9.4.2.1. Project workers

The EIB Group does not tolerate forced and child labour, a stance codified in the labour law of all Member States. For projects in the European Union, promoters must provide workers the protections outlined in relevant national laws.

Because national law outside of the European Union varies more, European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standard 8 prescribes the following requirements for people working on projects outside the European Union:

- In line with ILO Conventions 29 and 105, the Bank prohibits all forms of forced or compulsory labour in the projects it finances. This includes any work or service performed under threat or coercion, such as indentured or bonded labour, and human trafficking. Promoters must ensure that workers' freedom of movement is not unduly restricted and must not tolerate corporal punishment, coercion or verbal abuse. If forced labour is identified, immediate corrective action is required. This includes ending the practice, ensuring non-coercive working conditions and referring the matter to the appropriate authorities.

- Promoters of Bank-funded projects are required to assess the risk of forced labour and child labour, particularly when such risks are heightened due to country, sector, contractor or supply chain factors.⁶ Forced labour must be strictly prohibited across all project-related activities, including those of contractors and suppliers. Promoters must pay special attention to identifying which project workers may be at greater risk of trafficking, considering factors like age, disability, ethnicity and gender.⁷
- In accordance with ILO Conventions 138 and 182, promoters must not employ or benefit from child labour, and must adhere to the minimum age requirements set by these conventions, or to stricter national laws. This includes any work that is exploitative, hazardous or detrimental to a child's development.
- Promoters are required to report the presence and roles of workers under 18 and ensure that minors are not employed informally, even where such practices may be culturally acceptable. All work involving minors must be subject to risk assessments and regular monitoring of health, working conditions and hours.

9.4.2.2. Workers in the project supply chain

Across the world, the Bank requires all project promoters to make reasonable efforts to assess whether there are labour risks (especially the use of forced or child labour) associated with the primary suppliers of goods and materials essential to the core functions of the project.⁸ The Bank specifies the steps the promoter must take when such risks are identified, based on the leverage it has. These steps reflect the requirements of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.



6. See Standard 8, paragraph 9 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).
 7. See Standard 8, paragraphs 28-30 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).
 8. See Standard 8, paragraphs 6 and 56-59 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

9.5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WITH PROJECT WORKERS AND ACCESS TO GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS

Project workers have access to the same EIB Group grievance and complaints mechanisms as other groups. See Chapter 1.5.4, “Mechanism to address complaints and grievances” for a more specific description of the EIB Group’s grievance mechanisms, which are used to investigate whether actions taken by the EIB Group comply with internal policies and applicable legislation.

The EIB Group also places specific obligations on promoters to put such mechanisms in place (outlined below).

9.5.1. Promoters’ obligations to engage with project workers

Promoters of projects financed by the Bank are required to ensure that project workers have access to effective means to raise and address workplace concerns.⁹

Where applicable, outside the European Union, promoters are required to engage with project workers in good faith, individually and/or through their associations, and provide them with timely information that is adequate for meaningful negotiation. They are also required to establish consultative forms of worker participation with management on matters of mutual concern, without prejudice to bargaining on working conditions.¹⁰

Standard 8 places emphasis on vulnerable workers that face specific risks due to context-specific socioeconomic characteristics (such as gender or religion). The Bank may request that promoters adapt their policies and procedures to provisions of the standard.

9.5.2. Grievance mechanisms provided by promoters

Promoters of Bank-financed projects are required to maintain an effective grievance mechanism that is accessible, culturally appropriate and gender-responsive, enabling project workers and their representatives to raise reasonable workplace concerns without fear of retaliation.¹¹

This mechanism must be clearly communicated to workers at the time of hiring and remain easily accessible throughout their employment. It should ensure timely, transparent and fair resolution of complaints, including options to submit information anonymously and confidentially, and must include special safeguards for sensitive issues, such as sexual or psychological harassment, exploitation, abuse and other forms of gender-based violence or discrimination. Workers must be allowed to participate in the grievance process directly or through representation by a trade union or a person of their choice.

Importantly, access to this mechanism cannot preclude or limit workers’ rights to pursue other forms of redress, such as arbitration procedures, or judicial or administrative means of redress.¹²

9. Where applicable, in line with Standard 8, paragraph 3 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

10. See Standard 8, paragraph 38 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

11. Where applicable, in line with Standard 8, paragraph 44 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

12. See Standard 8, paragraph 46 of the [European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards](#).

9.6. PREVENTING AND MANAGING NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON WORKERS

The Bank conducts risk-based due diligence and monitoring to identify and prevent the negative impact a project can have on workers throughout its lifecycle. This process pays particular attention to socioeconomic factors like gender, age, ethnicity, disability, migrant status, or affiliation with unions or civil society organisations (as outlined in European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standards 8 and 9).

A worker's vulnerability takes into account their level of legal protection, bargaining position and degree of isolation. The Bank's understanding of these risks is informed by the expertise of its social development specialists, ongoing engagement with civil society and insights gained from the EIB Group's Complaints Mechanism. This mechanism also helps the Bank understand the effectiveness of its safeguards and identify systemic issues.

The EIF follows a similar approach, which reflects the EIB Group's overarching expectations for protecting suppliers' employees. As part of its due diligence process, the EIF pursues to embed diversity, equity and inclusion not only at the fund management level, but also across investee companies.

In the [EIF Private Debt Survey 2021](#), the EIF provided detailed information on how fund managers integrate diversity and inclusion in the due diligence process. This includes whether portfolio companies have the policies, such as a code of conduct, family leave policies or other frameworks, necessary to promote an inclusive workplace. Fund managers are also asked to disclose any claims of harassment, misconduct or discrimination involving current or former employees over the past five years, including how such matters were addressed.

The EIF also collects information on whether fund managers have taken action to foster diversity and inclusion, and whether they actively measure related indicators (like gender representation across roles) or have established concrete targets as part of the due diligence process. Fund managers are expected to describe these indicators, the actions taken to meet their targets, and whether progress is on track. The EIF also requests information on whether diversity and inclusion targets have been set at the portfolio company level, including specific objectives for the representation of women among board members, high-level executives, founders and managers. This approach ensures that diversity, equity and inclusion are embedded not only at the fund management level, but also across investee companies.

Note that this section is limited to value chain workers, and should be read in conjunction with the section "Stakeholder engagement and accountability" in Chapter 1.

9.7. ACTIONS TO REMEDIATE NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Depending on the risk identified by the Bank during due diligence, a promoter may be required¹³ to regularly monitor the project's workforce – including contractors, subcontractors and primary suppliers. In this way, the promoter must identify any labour risks or violation of labour standards, and implement effective measures to address them, setting priorities for action and evaluation of the results. The results of such monitoring are reported to the Bank, and additional measures (for example, labour or occupational health and safety audits) may be required at that stage.

The approach to grievance and remedy is outlined in more detail in the information note [The European Investment Bank's approach to human rights](#).

13. See paragraphs 60 and 61 of European Investment Bank Environmental and Social Standard 8.



SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

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DEUXIÈME PARTIE

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DEUXIÈME PARTIE

10.
EMPOWERING
OUR WORKFORCE

10.1. KEY MESSAGES

The EIB Group employed 5 151 people as of December 2024. Staff members are primarily based in Luxembourg (92%) but also operate in 57 locations across the European Union and the rest of the world. The workforce is diverse, representing all EU members and candidate countries.

Employees are offered many opportunities to develop their skills and careers. They benefit from comprehensive social protection, competitive pay and financial support for housing. The EIB Group assures the well-being of its workforce by applying robust health and safety policies, mental health support and ergonomic office furniture. All staff members benefit from EIB Group principles of transparency, fairness and accountability. A strong framework guides employee relations and engagement, including a College of Staff Representatives and regular staff surveys.

An EIB Group employee is defined as a private person who has a direct employment relationship with the EIB Group. Employees fall under the following two categories:

- staff members, as defined in Article 14 of the [Staff Regulations](#);
- local agents, or Bank employees that were hired locally in a non-EU country or in a location outside Europe. The employment contracts of local agents are subject to local laws and general regulations, which define the local agents' employment conditions. At the end of 2024, 80 local agents were employed by the EIB Group, representing 1.6% of all employees.



“ The EIB Group’s diversity and inclusion approach, approved in mid-2024, sets clear goals to ensure that all employees thrive, irrespective of their gender, sexual identity, ethnic background, disability or neurodivergence. ”

10.1.1. Concrete actions and impact

The EIB Group's diversity and inclusion approach, approved in mid-2024, sets clear goals to ensure that all employees thrive, irrespective of their gender, sexual identity, ethnic background, disability or neurodivergence. The aim is to have women account for 40% of management positions by the end of 2026, with a commitment to promote inclusive hiring, talent development and a varied work experience. The implementation of the diversity and inclusion approach includes a new diversity and inclusion council (kicked off on 11 September 2024), diversity and inclusion champions and four active employee networks sponsored by EIB vice-presidents.

Employees and managers benefit from tailored training, either facilitated or through self-learning and a new career guidance centre. In line with its digital transformation agenda, the EIB Group has created a digital academy and has provided digital leadership training to all EIB Group managers.

In 2024, a Speak Up and Dignity at Work Action Plan was adopted to reinforce trust, improve early conflict resolution and ensure that workplace concerns are addressed professionally and respectfully. This includes the introduction of a new Ombuds function, to provide informal and confidential assistance to staff members who request it.

Regular performance reviews align individual growth with institutional goals.

Several campaigns were organised in 2024 to promote diversity and career development, including diversity week, disability week, career week (for the first time), a week on "how we work together," and an ethics week.

10.1.2. Key policies and standards

- **Staff Regulations:** The Bank and the EIF have separate but aligned frameworks that govern employment conditions, rights and responsibilities.
- **EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct:** Promotes integrity, respect, cooperation and equal opportunities, with strict anti-discrimination and anti-retaliation clauses.
- **Dignity at Work Policy:** Prevents harassment and promotes respectful workplace behaviour through informal and formal resolution mechanisms.
- **Health, Well-being and Safety Policy:** Ensures occupational safety and a proactive approach to health issues, including for overseas assignments.
- **Integrity Policy and Compliance Charter:** Defines ethical standards and compliance procedures to encourage transparency and accountability.
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the EIB Group:** Highlights the EIB Group's approach to diversity, equity and inclusion through six commitments and five priority goals in major areas of diversity, a gender target of 40% women managers by end 2026, and governance to ensure progress.
- **EIB Group Whistleblowing Policy:** Protects employees who report misconduct and ensures issues are addressed without retaliation.
- **EIB Group Personal Data Protection Policy:** Complies with EU regulations to safeguard the personal data of all employees and affiliates.
- **Talent development strategy:** Establishes that managers review all employees and propose skill development opportunities for employees to evolve in their roles or to prepare them for their next role or promotion.

10.2. POLICIES RELATED TO OUR WORKFORCE

The relationship between the EIB Group and its employees is governed by several policies and procedures. Employees of the Bank and the EIF can consult the policies and procedures on the intranet, which also provides articles explaining specific cases. Certain policies are also published on the websites of the Bank and the EIF.

Every year, all EIB employees have to complete compulsory training. New employees must complete a dedicated training programme in their first year of employment and new managers must complete a managerial programme. Many other facilitated and self-learning courses are also available to employees throughout their employment to grow their technical and behavioural skills. In line with its strategic and operational priorities, the EIB Group encourages skill-building.

In addition to the policies described below, the EIB Group is subject to the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#), which guarantees every employee the same level of protection.

10.2.1. Staff-related policies

The Bank's [Staff Regulations](#) govern the relationship between the Bank and its employees, establishing a comprehensive framework covering recruitment, career progression, remuneration, benefits, working hours, leave entitlements, disciplinary measures and procedures for appeals and complaints. These are the general conditions of employment and are complemented by more detailed European Investment Bank Staff Rules (internal). These regulations and rules are designed for the Bank to ensure that its staff members work in a transparent, accountable and ethically sound environment.

The EIF has its own [Staff Regulations](#) which are aligned with the EIB Staff Regulations.

The EIB Group [Dignity at Work Policy](#) is a framework designed to foster a positive work environment in which all employees are treated with respect and receive support. It promotes a culture that does not tolerate any kind of harassment – psychological or sexual – establishing clear standards for personal conduct and mutual respect. The policy outlines a two-tier approach for addressing issues related to workplace dignity, beginning with informal resolution methods and/or mediation. If these measures do not solve the issue, the policy also includes a formal inquiry process conducted by an external, impartial panel of experts. The policy emphasises transparency, accountability and continuous improvement, ensuring that every employee can contribute fully to a healthy, supportive work environment.

The **Health, Well-being and Safety Policy** of the EIB Group offers a framework for safeguarding the physical and mental health of EIB Group employees. It sets out clear standards for occupational safety, risk assessment and preventive health measures, while promoting initiatives that enhance employee well-being and resilience. The policy emphasises proactive measures (such as an ergonomic workplace design, stress management programmes and continuous safety training) to ensure that the working environment remains secure and supportive.

The EIB Group's **Overseas Security and Health Policy** provides comprehensive guidelines to protect employees operating in international or high-risk environments. It addresses issues unique to overseas assignments by outlining protocols for risk evaluation, emergency response and crisis management. The policy includes preventative health measures, local security requirements and clear procedures for evacuation and support.

The [Code of good administrative behaviour for the staff of the European Investment Bank in its relations with the public](#) lays down principles that guide the conduct of staff members in their interaction with the public. Applicable to employees across the Bank and the EIF, it focuses on transparency,

responsiveness and respect in dealing with citizens' inquiries and requests for information. The code fosters fairness, integrity and accountability in administrative dealings.

The **Integrity Policy and Compliance Charter** is a cornerstone of ethical governance in the EIB Group, and applies to the Bank and the EIF. It clearly defines the ethical principles and responsibilities applying to all employees, outlining measures designed to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure rigorous compliance with both internal and international standards. The charter sets out procedures for monitoring, assessing and reporting on compliance risks, reinforcing a culture of transparency and accountability.

The **EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct** establishes a comprehensive ethical framework for all employees of the Bank and the EIF, as well as consultants and service providers under relevant contracts. It promotes the core values of integrity, respect, cooperation, commitment and equal opportunities, ensuring a professional, inclusive and respectful working environment. The code outlines standards for professional behaviour, internally and in external relations, and is aligned with the EIB Staff Regulations. It provides clear guidance on issues like conflicts of interest, confidentiality, non-discrimination, respectful staff behaviour and prohibition of retaliation, supporting a culture of accountability, transparency and ethical responsibility across the organisation.

10.2.2. Diversity equity and inclusion

In line with the **European Union's motto, "United in diversity,"** the EIB Group attributes great importance to diversity, equal opportunity and inclusion as integral parts of its organisational values and mission. Through strategic initiatives, inclusive practices and collaborative engagement, the EIB Group remains committed to cultivating a workplace that is collaborative, respectful and kind, where staff feel they belong and no one is left behind. The EIB Group is committed to creating a work environment where colleagues can be themselves, thrive and have equal access to resources for developing their skills and taking charge of their careers.

The **EIB Group's diversity and inclusion approach** has four pillars: commitments, priority actions, gender balance in management and diversity, equity and inclusion governance.

10.2.2.1. Commitments

The EIB Group has defined six core commitments to embed diversity and inclusion into its institutional identity, reflecting **EU values of equality, non-discrimination and human dignity.**

10.2.2.2. Priority actions

Five priority actions guide the implementation of the approach: fostering an inclusive culture, eliminating ethnicity-based discrimination, advancing gender equity, supporting LGBTIQ+ inclusion and improving accessibility for disabled and neurodivergent people, among others, through a reasonable accommodation framework. Diversity, equity and inclusion principles are integrated into all human resources processes.

10.2.2.3. Gender balance

The EIB Group has set a measurable target to reach at least 40% women managers by the end of 2026. Progress is monitored, and reported on a quarterly basis. For figures on gender balance at the Bank, please refer to Chapter 10.5, "Workforce metrics."



10.2.2.4. Governance

Transparency is ensured through the quarterly reporting of the “women managers” indicator in the operational plan and risk appetite framework, and the annual diversity, equity and inclusion reporting.

The commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is also incorporated in the [EIB Group’s code of conduct](#), which unequivocally denounces discrimination on various grounds. This commitment is stated clearly in Article 4.4 of the [EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct](#), which states: “Staff members shall not engage in any forms of discrimination based on nationality, gender, race, colour, ethnic group or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, association with a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, sexual orientation, family situation, pregnancy, maternity, paternity or any other form of diversity.” In addition, both in relation with their colleagues and with the public, Article 4.1 and 5.1 of the EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct request staff members to behave in line with the principles of courtesy, equal treatment and non-discrimination.

These non-discrimination principles cover all relevant aspects of employment, including recruitment, job assignment, promotion, remuneration, learning and benefits. The EIB Group prohibits any form of harassment and discrimination. Staff members can report potential discrimination through a request for administrative review challenging a decision by the Bank which they feel is discriminatory, or through reporting a potential breach of the Code of Conduct if another staff member has acted in a discriminatory manner. While the process is available to all employees it should be noted that in 2024, no cases of discrimination or human rights abuses were reported by Bank employees.

Diversity and inclusion performance goals are set for all managers. To ensure progress, the EIB Group has established a new Diversity and Inclusion Council. In addition, all newcomers receive training on unconscious bias, and managers learn about various aspects of inclusive leadership, such as microaggression, harassment and psychological safety.

10.2.3. Health and safety policies

10.2.3.1. Policy framework

The EIB Group Health, Well-Being and Safety Policy lays out measures to protect the health of staff members through policies and processes. The policy is complemented by the EIB Group Overseas Security and Health Policy, which covers business travel, family services and medical clearance for staff working on projects beyond the European Union.

10.2.3.2. Governance and responsibilities

Health and safety are overseen by the EIB Group's Human Resources, Facilities Management and Corporate Security units, which coordinate risk assessment, emergency preparedness and compliance with EU workplace safety directives.

10.2.3.3. Workplace accident prevention

The EIB Group has implemented a workplace accident prevention policy as mandated by the Health, Well-Being and Safety Policy, as part of the Group's broader safety framework. This includes regular risk assessments, preventive maintenance, safety signage and structured reporting of incidents and near-misses.

10.2.3.4. Health and well-being programmes

The EIB Group provides access to occupational health services, psychological support and thematic awareness-raising and engagement campaigns. Preventive health measures include vaccination drives, mental health awareness campaigns and ergonomic assessments. Reasonable accommodations are made for staff with disabilities or chronic conditions.

10.2.3.5. Security measures

The Overseas Security and Safety Policy ensures physical and operational security through access control, surveillance and emergency response protocols. The Overseas Security and Health Policy includes travel risk assessments, crisis response planning and medical evacuation procedures.

10.2.3.6. Training and awareness

Training on health, safety and security is offered to all staff members. Additional training is available for managers and staff in high-risk roles and for employees travelling. Managers are specifically trained on harassment, psychological safety and neurodiversity in the workplace. Awareness campaigns promote a culture of safety, respect and shared responsibility.

10.2.3.7. Monitoring and improvement

Workplace safety performance is monitored through internal reporting systems and periodic audits. Lessons learned from incidents are used to improve policies and procedures. The EIB Group is committed to continuous improvement and transparency in its occupational health and safety practices.

10.2.3.8. Outcomes

The EIB Group maintains a strong record of workplace safety, supported by a comprehensive policy framework and a culture of prevention and care, which contribute to a resilient, secure and supportive working environment for all employees.

10.3. PROCESSES FOR ENGAGING WITH EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

10.3.1. EIB and EIF College of Staff Representatives

The Bank has established a College of Staff Representatives, with representatives elected by the Bank's staff members for a three-year mandate.

The College of Staff Representatives is informed and consulted on decisions concerning staff members (for example remuneration, appraisal, conditions of employment, etc.):

- The Bank and the staff representatives have set up joint committees on various topics, such as the pension scheme, the health insurance scheme and health and safety.
- The College of Staff Representatives contributes to policy regarding the Bank's workforce by submitting proposals or examining the Bank's proposals.
- The staff representatives are regularly informed about meetings of the Management Committee, Board of Directors and Board of Governors. Staff representatives may attend Management Committee discussions of proposals concerning the general interests of all or part of the staff. They are also entitled to attend, as observers, Board of Directors discussions of proposals concerning the general interests of all or part of the staff.

The Bank's Human Resources Directorate has monthly meetings with the College of Staff Representatives. In addition, the Bank's president usually meets with the representatives twice a year. The Bank is required to inform the College of any changes in the work environment or policies within a reasonable time, to enable staff representatives to study the changes and formulate an opinion.

The operational responsibility for ensuring regular engagement with the staff representatives lies with the director general of human resources.

The EIF also has a College of Staff Representatives, with representatives elected by EIF employees for a two-year mandate.

The EIF College of Staff Representatives is kept informed and consulted on various topics, such as remuneration, performance appraisal and employment conditions. While the EIF staff representatives share the same responsibilities as the Bank's staff representatives, they do not have joint committees.

The EIF's People Office Directorate holds monthly meetings with the representatives. Additionally, the EIF chief executive meets with the College on a quarterly basis. The EIF informs the College in advance of any planned changes to the work environment or policies. All relevant information is shared in a timely manner to enable the College to review the information and provide informed feedback.

The operational responsibility for ensuring regular engagement with staff representatives lies with the EIF People Office Directorate.

10.3.2. Other mechanisms to engage and communicate with employees

Periodical staff surveys assess the effectiveness of the EIB Group's engagement with its workforce. Following a survey conducted in 2022, a variety of actions were taken to address staff concerns, for example regarding management development, ethics with a focused speak-up survey and subsequent

14 points actions (including the creation of an ombudsman, 360° reviews and others) and flexible work framework ensuring enough working time together from the office while allowing staff to telework 40% of their time, of which 20 days from another country.

In 2024, the EIB Group designed a new comprehensive staff engagement survey for 2025.

In addition, ongoing customer satisfaction surveys regarding IT, the Group's digital transformation, information management, etc., and other pulse surveys are being prepared.

Additionally, the EIB Group has several mechanisms in place to hear the voice of marginalised groups among its own workforce (such as Human Resources Business Partners, employee resource groups, social coordinator, surveys, diversity and inclusion champions, the Diversity and Inclusion Council and others).

The EIB Group communicates with employees through various channels, such as newsletters and intranet articles, and in several languages. Once a week, the president updates employees on developments in the bank in a video on the intranet as well as personalised notifications in the employees' HR portal.

10.3.3. Channels for workers to raise concerns

The Bank's staff members may raise their concerns with human resources business and service partners, who are there to support them on matters relating to career planning, internal mobility or difficult professional situations.

In addition, the Bank has several dispute resolution mechanisms:

- Through the administrative review mechanism, employees may challenge decisions that adversely affect them.
- The performance and promotion administrative review mechanism allows employees to challenge the outcome of their appraisal and promotion process.
- The Dignity at Work policy guarantees employees the right to lodge an official complaint if they have been the subject of psychological and/or sexual harassment.

Employees can access the Bank's processes and procedures on the intranet. While there is no mandatory format for submitting a concern through the dispute resolution mechanisms, dedicated templates are available to support employees in structuring their submissions.

Complainants who are not satisfied with the outcome of the Bank's internal processes may lodge an appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

In all complaints procedures employees are protected from retaliation. The [EIB Group Whistleblowing Policy](#) (detailed in Chapter 11, "Driving responsible business conduct") provides the channels through which staff members can complain if they are victims of retaliation or believe they are exposed to risk of retaliation. Article 4.7 of the EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct states that "any act of retaliation is prohibited."

The EIB Group tracks issues raised through the different dispute resolution mechanisms.

The EIF has the same dispute resolution mechanisms as the Bank.



10.4. ACTIONS WITH A POSITIVE IMPACT

10.4.1. Equitable treatment in recruitment and career development

The EIB Group has several procedures in place to develop talent and ensure that qualifications, skills and experience form the basis for decision-making around recruitment, mobility, talent development and promotion:

- The annual talent review is a process by which management teams apply consistent criteria to assess staff members' potential and readiness for promotion and to decide whom to promote, whom to nominate for talent development measures, whom to clear for job mobility and whom to develop in their current role.
- In 2024, EIB Group Human Resources staff created a new horizontal opportunity process (HOP) that facilitates horizontal job mobility. HOP has led to more and faster inter-directorate mobility.
- When posts are vacant, managers launch a full internal selection process, conducted by a selection panel with the participation of a Human Resources representative.
- Assessment centres are systematically part of the selection process for managerial positions. External assessors lend expertise and impartiality to the assessment of managerial competencies.
- Unconscious bias training is required for all selection panel members.

The Human Resources Directorate uses a diversity and inclusion dashboard to keep up-to-date records on recruitment and training and promotion, and to make employees' progress and opportunities transparent to them.

The president leads on matters relating to equity in the workplace, and efforts in this area are pursued Bank-wide. All managers therefore have diversity and inclusion objectives, and receive training on unconscious bias, inclusive leadership and allyship, psychosocial safety, microaggressions, harassment awareness and prevention and neurodiversity in the workplace.

10.4.2. Inclusion of people with disabilities

The EIB Group is committed to ensuring that its teams, digital environment and buildings are accessible to all employees and visitors, including disabled or neurodivergent individuals. The Group strives to continuously raise its accessibility standards and complies with the relevant regulations, based on the [EIB Group Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion approach](#), which is aligned with EU values and human rights principles. The Group ensures non-discrimination and equitable opportunities throughout all stages of employment.

Monitoring and outcomes

- **Accessibility audits:** Regular reviews of office environments ensure compliance with accessibility standards.
- **Employee feedback:** Inclusion metrics and feedback mechanisms help assess the effectiveness of disability inclusion efforts.
- **External accountability:** Participation in initiatives like the [Valuable 500](#) and public diversity and inclusion reporting improve transparency and progress tracking.
- A **reasonable accommodations** framework (such as changes to a job or a work environment to enable a person with a disability to apply, perform and advance in their job) is in place.

10.4.3. Other actions to promote equal treatment and opportunities for all

The EIB Group uses several initiatives to pursue the common goal of equitable treatment and opportunities for all:

- **Diversity and inclusion community and promotion:** The EIB Group has employee resource groups devoted to different diversity and inclusion areas: gender, disability and neurodiversity, LGBTIQ+ and ethnicity. Each is sponsored by one or two of the Group's vice-presidents. Together with a wide network of more than 100 staff members who serve as diversity and inclusion champions, these groups help drive the diversity agenda in the workplace. In 2024, they organised the annual diversity week, held diversity events, raised awareness and shared best practices.
- **Gender:** Gender balance at the EIB Group continued to improve in 2024, in particular in managerial roles, where women represented 39% at the end of 2024. Significant efforts have been made to ensure that diversity and inclusion are considered in all key human resources processes – from recruitment, to skills development, performance management and talent management.
- **LGBTIQ + inclusion:** The EIB Group respects, protects and promotes equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer employees. Through staff engagement, awareness initiatives, manager training, events and policy updates, it continued in 2024 to strengthen LGBTIQ+ inclusion. *At the Luxembourg Pride Run, around 200 EIB Group colleagues showed their support for the LGBTIQ+ community.*
- **Ethnicity:** The EIB Group is dedicated to fostering an environment free from ethnicity-based discrimination, reflecting Europe's diversity in our teams and locations. Promoting minority ethnic inclusion is a key diversity and inclusion priority, and in 2024, the Group continued to build a culture that values diverse perspectives.

In addition to these efforts, many other initiatives and events were created in 2024, including the celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day in March, European Diversity Month in May, the EIB Group Pride Week in July and Disability Inclusion Week in December.

The EIB Group actively engages with peer organisations, experts and consultants to exchange best practices and drive forward its diversity and inclusion agenda.

In recognition of its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, *the EIB Group obtained the EDGE Move certification*, highlighting the progress made in gender representation and fostering an inclusive organisational culture. Moreover, the achievement of EDGEplus certification underscores the EIB Group's commitment to considering gender equity from diverse perspectives, adding an intersectional lens.

10.4.4. Speak-up and Dignity at Work Action Plan

In alignment with the EIB Group's Compliance Culture Change Programme and the *European Investment Bank Group Whistleblowing Policy*, the Bank ran a survey in 2023 with the primary purpose of gauging the effectiveness of the Group's speak-up framework and culture. Based on that survey, the EIB Group's governing bodies adopted the 2024-2026 *Speak-up and Dignity at Work Action Plan*. It includes 14 measures to improve transparency, accountability and well-being in the workplace. The measures are expected to accelerate internal processes, facilitate early detection and effective conflict mediation, ensure quick response and follow-up for complaints, provide assistance to affected people, promote a culture of speaking up, improve manager engagement for a better working environment, establish an independent ombudsman-type service and collect feedback from senior management on issues raised. After the plan's implementation is complete, a new survey will be run to measure the progress. The ability of employees to speak up is also measured through regular staff surveys that include questions on ethics and integrity in the workplace.

10.4.5. Empowering staff through continuous learning and skills development

The EIB Group places strong emphasis on continuous learning as a cornerstone of staff's development, business results and organisational resilience. Its comprehensive training and development offering is open to all staff members and is designed to support career growth, enhance employability, and respond to the Group's evolving business and strategic needs. Learning is guided by an annual assessment of organisational priorities and individual development goals, ensuring that programmes remain relevant and forward-looking.

Learning is delivered through a mix of voluntary and compulsory courses, covering a wide range of skill areas. These include:

- Managerial and leadership skills, such as leading with purpose and impact, conducting effective development discussions, and mental health awareness for managers.
- Interpersonal skills, including constructive feedback techniques and impactful presentation skills.
- Banking and finance skills, such as banking fundamentals, credit and operational risk management.
- Digital skills, including data visualisation, agile methodology, and short-format digital workouts.
- Technical skills, such as climate policy, fraud and corruption awareness, and project management.
- Language skills.

In addition to professional competencies, the EIB Group prioritises employee wellbeing and safety. Courses and workshops are offered to ensure staff can perform their duties safely and without risk to health. These include training on:

- conflict management, communication styles (including microaggressions);
- building resilience;
- mental health education.

To support long-term career development, the Group supplements its learning offering with targeted resources and tracks individual progress through the SuccessFactors platform. This ensures alignment with the Group's employee development strategy and helps monitor the impact of learning initiatives across the organisation.

10.4.5.1. Skill building and transition assistance programmes

At the EIB Group, each employee has a development plan with learning and development objectives, as well as related activities agreed between the staff member and their direct manager.

To help managers develop, the EIB Group offers a suite of learning programmes, coaching and personal development activities that form a wider leadership and management skills portfolio. There are instructor-led sessions (virtual or in-person), self-learning programmes based on digital platforms, and others. They are designed to ensure that managerial and leadership competencies and skills meet future organisational goals and are aligned with the Group strategy. A leadership culture programme was also introduced in 2020, and continues to be implemented. The EIB Group leadership skills deemed critical for each managerial role have been defined in workshops with the management teams of the different directorates.

10.4.5.2. Regular performance reviews and career development discussions

At the beginning of each year, managers hold a discussion with each employee to clarify performance expectations, objectives to achieve and competencies to display. These are stated in each employee's performance document and their progress is discussed informally throughout the year and formally recorded at year-end and recorded in the document. Following the year-end performance evaluation and based on a peer comparison, employees are recognised either as a top performer, performing or underperforming, and are rewarded accordingly.

During the year, managers and employees also discuss development needs and opportunities, set development objectives and agree on learning and development activities to achieve the development goals. These can be recorded in the employee's development plan. Employees and managers should have at least one career development discussion a year.

Staff can also seek advice from the Career Guidance Centre. It has provided individual advice and workshops since 2023, and held an annual career week since 2024 to inspire employees to take charge of their careers.

10.4.6. Health and safety

10.4.6.1. EIB Group Health and Safety Committee and Support Network

The Bank implements its health and safety policies through a joint Health and Safety Committee comprised of members designated by the administration, the College of Staff Representatives and the Retirees' Association. This committee advises the Board of Directors on the Bank's risk policies, including those relevant to the EIB Group, focusing on promoting a healthy and safe work environment for all employees and stakeholders.

The Bank also has an occupational health service that runs regular thematic awareness-raising and engagement campaigns to promote employee health and well-being, and provides workplace counselling.

10.4.6.2. Risk assessment and mitigation

The EIB Group is required to protect its employees and others from harm. This includes identifying anything that could cause injury or illness in the workplace, and determining the likelihood of someone being harmed by it and how serious it could be. Within the EIB Group, the Occupational Health and Safety Department and the Human Resources Directorate are responsible for ongoing risk assessment. The Health and Safety Committee regularly monitors identified potential risks and reports on accidents, diseases and hazards.

However, assessing and regularly monitoring risk is just one part of the process to control risk at the EIB Group. The Group aims to eliminate hazard or, where this is not possible, to control the risk. To seek to ensure the psychological safety of employees, it runs psychosocial risk assessments in departments that request it or are deemed to be high-risk. In addition, in 2021 the EIB Group carried out an organisation-wide psychosocial risk assessment to identify the main sources of employee stress and take corrective measures. Since early 2024, the medical service has collected data on psychological stress through an ongoing survey. This has enabled some immediate and structural measures to be implemented to reduce stress and improve the working environment, for example, by supporting the right to disconnect outside working hours, and by implementing a specific meeting-free time window to help employees focus on individual work.

10.4.6.3. Health services

The EIB Group offers the following health services to its employees:

- a periodic internal health assessment;
- confidential psychological counselling in a safe setting;
- ergonomic equipment. All staff have access to ergonomics advice for setting up their workstation, have adjustable desks and are issued specific ergonomic equipment upon request;
- external preventive medicine examinations: Staff members and their spouses/eligible partners are entitled to a full medical examination with the provider of their choice according to a medical programme established by the EIB Group's medical service (possible every one to three years, depending on age).

These services are complemented by a variety of measures tailored to the nature of work at the Bank, including:

- health and accident insurance;
- preventive health and safety measures through the joint Health and Safety Committee;
- access to a team of occupational health professionals with the EIB Group medical service;
- preventive medicine care, such as flu vaccination campaigns, a free annual eye check and regular screening programmes in hospitals;
- monitoring of stress levels;
- conflict management and mediation services;
- mental health awareness and first aid training;
- travel clearance, including vaccination and information on health risks and issues for business travel, through the EIB Group medical service.

The EIB Group also applies an integration management approach to help staff return to the workplace after longer periods of absence due to illness.

10.4.7. Well-being of EIB Group staff

10.4.7.1. Secure employment and flexibility

Most EIB Group staff members have indefinite work contracts that offer security. The EIB Group also provides flexible working arrangement options for all employees (telework, part-time work, special leave). In particular, staff can work remotely and on site.

10.4.7.2. Adequate wages

The EIB Group aims to offer a competitive remuneration package to attract and retain high-calibre candidates, and to motivate existing staff members to accomplish the Group's business objectives to the highest standards. Remuneration practices are based on international market trends that are closely monitored through regular benchmarking of peer organisations in the international private and public financial market. For more information on remuneration and benefits, see the [Bank's career page](#) and the [EIF's remuneration and benefits page](#).

10.4.7.3. Social protection

All EIB Group employees are protected against loss of income due to:

- illness;
- employment injury and acquired disability;
- parental leave;
- retirement.

Compensation packages for employees of the Bank and the EIF include family, pension and healthcare benefits and, for example, life and accident insurance, disability and invalidity coverage and paid parental leave. The Bank also offers a partial (early) retirement scheme that allows staff to gradually reduce their working hours at the end of their careers. Other benefits are offered based on circumstance, such as an expatriation package and housing loan interest subsidy. Additionally, employees have access to sports facilities and children's day care facilities, subsidised meals and general employee welfare programmes, among others.

The EIB Group provides eligible staff with six months of remunerated full-time parental leave – or, since mid-2023, up to 12 months of part-time parental leave – to take care of their dependent children under a certain age. The same time allowances apply to full-time and part-time employees.

10.4.7.4. Remuneration pay gap and total remuneration

The EIB Group is committed to a fair, transparent and equitable approach to compensation, guided by the principle of equal pay for equal work. There are three staff categories – support, executive and management – each of which plays a vital role in delivering on the Group mission.

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor and promote pay equity, the EIB Group conducts an internal assessment of the adjusted gender pay gap (following the [EDGE methodology](#)), which shows a statistically insignificant gender pay gap. The workforce metrics table below also lists the unadjusted gender pay gap across the staff categories for 2024. This is defined as the difference in average pay between female and male employees, expressed as a percentage of the average male pay.

The total annual remuneration ratio helps steer the EIB Group's work to create internal pay equity and transparency. In 2024, the ratio of the total annual compensation of the highest-paid individual to the median annual compensation of all employees (excluding the highest-paid individual) was 3.19 to 1.

10.4.7.5. Housing measures

The Bank has several measures to give its workforce access to adequate housing, including a subsidy to pay a portion of the interest on their mortgage loans, as well as the rental guarantee policy (put in place in 2024), under which the EIB Group will advance the security deposit requested of employees by landlords.



10.4.7.6. Personal data protection

The EIB Group is bound by [Regulation 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018](#) on the protection of natural persons for the processing of personal data by EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and on the free movement of such data and by the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#). Under Article 8(1) of that charter and Article 16(1) of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning them. This means not only permanent EIB Group employees, but also trainees, consultants and temporary workers.

10.4.8. Support for people with disabilities

The EIB Group is committed to supporting employees with disabilities through a comprehensive range of inclusive initiatives. Its recruitment and orientation processes are designed to be accessible, offering reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunities from the start. In the workplace, the Bank provides tailored adjustments (physical and technological) based on individual needs, creating an environment in which everyone can thrive. Regular awareness campaigns and training sessions equip managers and staff with the knowledge necessary to be inclusive and support disability and neurodivergence. Additionally, the “enAble” employee resource group offers a vital platform for disabled and neurodivergent colleagues, their allies and members of their support systems, promoting peer support, advocacy and a sense of community.

10.5. WORKFORCE METRICS

TABLE 1

Employee characteristics – headcount 2024		2023
Employees – total	5 151	4 968
Female employees	2 639	2 543
Male employees	2 512	2 425
Permanent female employees	2 455	2 255
Permanent male employees	2 366	2 169
Temporary female employees	184	288
Temporary male employees	146	256
Full-time female employees	2 475	2 379
Full-time male employees	2 454	2 380
Part-time female employees	164	164
Part-time male employees	58	45
Total employees in top management	75	74
Top management – female	28	23
Top management – male	47	51
Number of employees who have left the Bank	188	209
Percentage of employee turnover ¹	3.80%	4.30%
Collective bargaining coverage and social dialogue (2024)		2023 value
Percentage of total employees covered by collective bargaining agreements	0	0
Percentage of employees in a country with significant employment (in the European Economic Area) covered by workers' representatives	100%	100%
Diversity metrics (2024)		2023 value
Percentage of female employees at top management level ²	37.33%	31.08%
Percentage of male employees at top management level ²	62.67%	68.92%
Employees under 30 years old	182	182
Employees between 30 and 50 years old	3 649	3 592
Employees over 50 years old	1 320	1 194
Social protection metrics (2024)		2023 value
Employees covered by social protection against loss of income due to illness, unemployment, employment injury and acquired disability, parental leave and retirement	100%	100%
Training and skills development metrics (2024)		2023 value
Percentage of employees that participated in talent reviews, by employee category		NEW
Female managers	88.37%	new
Male managers	93.75%	new
Female non-managers	95.34%	new
Male non-managers	94.53%	new

1. The employee turnover rate is calculated as the number of exits divided by the headcount at the beginning of the period.

2. The top management includes the senior staff at the EIB Group (level 8 & 9) with managerial responsibilities.

Training and skills development metrics (2024)		2023 value
Percentage of employees that participated in regular performance reviews, by employee category		NEW
Female managers	91.69%	new
Male managers	92.67%	new
Female non-managers	92.56%	new
Male non-managers	92.58%	new
Average number of training hours, by gender		2023
Female managers	40.70	25.50
Male managers	32.00	16.05
Female non-managers	34.96	29.05
Male non-managers	34.52	30.33
Work-life balance metrics (2024)		2023
Total percentage of employees that took parental leave	11.10%	10.33%
Percentage of female employees that took parental leave	12.24%	11.72%
Percentage of male employees that took parental leave	9.91%	8.87%
Remuneration metrics ³		2023
Annual total remuneration ratio	3.19	3.32
Gender pay gap – management staff	7.48%	5.70%
Gender pay gap – executive staff	9.27%	9.16%
Gender pay gap – support staff	-0.03%	0.26%

3. The adjusted gender pay gap based on [EDGE methodology](#) (accounting for factors such as role, experience, skills, tenure and education) was 4.27%.



PART VI

GOVERNANCE





11. DRIVING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT



11.1. KEY MESSAGES

Business conduct refers to the ethical standards, values and principles that govern how an organisation and its employees conduct business, ensure compliance with the law and regulations and uphold the organisation's reputation and integrity. It encompasses the principles and values that guide ethical decisions and professional interactions, ensuring that activities are carried out with integrity and respect for internal rules and values. Maintaining high standards of business conduct is essential to building trust, fostering a positive environment and achieving the organisation's objectives.

Business conduct at the EIB Group is based on core values such as integrity, respect, cooperation, commitment and equal opportunities. All employees are expected to act ethically and responsibly, ensuring that their behaviour reflects the Group's values and mission while supporting the broader interests of the European Union. They are also expected to help the EIB Group fight corruption and bribery, prevent money laundering, combat the financing of terrorism and adhere to tax good governance principles.

By creating a work culture shaped by these values, and supported by a strong policy framework, the EIB Group promotes a positive work environment and strengthens public trust. Respecting these principles is essential to maintaining the Bank's credibility and ensuring it can support the European Union's strategic priorities and deliver lasting benefits for its people.

11.1.1. EIB Group commitments

The EIB Group's mission depends on its continued commitment to EU values. Every staff member contributes to building Europe's future – and to do so, they must act in accordance with the highest ethical standards. The EIB Group does not tolerate corruption and bribery and is committed to the highest standard of tax good governance and the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

11.1.2. Concrete actions and impact

A strong compliance culture is one of the EIB Group's biggest priorities. The EIB Group promotes a culture that encourages employees to speak up when they encounter compliance or conduct issues, which reduces the risk of tarnishing the organisation's reputation. An action plan to improve workplace well-being, focusing on dignity at work and encouraging employees to speak up, was approved in 2024.

The EIB Group compliance function and EIB Group investigation function are continuously enhancing their institutional frameworks to prevent, detect and address risks respectively related to money laundering, financing of terrorism and tax governance, or related to fraud and bribery.

Staff awareness plays a key role in such frameworks. EIB Group staff must complete annual training on anti-money laundering, combatting terrorist financing, and fraud and corruption. Events on ethics and integrity are also organised, such as the Ethics Week held by the EIB and EIF in October 2024, which is marked by the annual Global Ethics Day.

11.1.3. Key policies and standards

The EIB Group has implemented the following policies to govern business conduct:

- EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct
- European Investment Bank Group Whistleblowing Policy
- EIB Group Dignity at Work Policy
- EIB Group Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism Policy
- EIB Group Policy towards weakly regulated, non-transparent and non-cooperative jurisdictions and tax good governance
- EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy

11.2. BUSINESS CONDUCT

11.2.1. Policies on business conduct

11.2.1.1. EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct

The [EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct](#) sets out rules on professional ethics and behaviour for everyone working for the EIB Group. This includes consultants and service providers, insofar as their contracts with the EIB Group cover these issues. The code promotes the values of integrity, respect, cooperation, commitment and equal opportunities, to promote a fair and balanced working environment.

The code sets clear rules for ethical conduct and provides guidance on how staff should behave within the EIB Group and with external partners. The scope of the EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct is defined in Article 1.2. The Bank and EIF compliance teams are responsible for interpreting and directing the code's implementation.

11.2.1.2. European Investment Bank Group Whistleblowing Policy

The [European Investment Bank Group Whistleblowing Policy](#) sets out the internal rules on whistleblowing concerning misconduct that affects the EIB Group. It defines clear internal and external reporting channels and ensures protection for any whistleblower acting in good faith. This protection also extends to those who assist the whistleblower, and/or are associated with them, such as a relative, partner or spouse working for the EIB Group. The policy ensures that whistleblowers receive appropriate information, support and guidance, and prohibits retaliation of any kind. It provides a framework that makes it safe for anyone to report alleged misconduct. The scope of the policy is defined in Article 4. The Group Chief Compliance Officer is responsible for administering the policy.

11.2.1.3. EIB Group Dignity at Work Policy

For more information on the EIB Group [Dignity at Work Policy](#), see Chapter 10, "Empowering our workforce."

11.2.2. Actions regarding business conduct

The Bank and EIF compliance teams offer the following training courses on business conduct:

- voluntary annual workshops and training sessions on key topics such as whistleblowing, conflicts of interest, external activities, gifts and workplace relations;
- a mandatory, virtual Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy course administered by the compliance team, that covers the [EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct](#) and the [European Investment Bank Group Whistleblowing Policy](#) (first introduced in 2025, to be repeated by all staff members every three years);
- ad hoc training sessions for specific needs, such as conflicts of interest in 2024/2025;
- other training and awareness-raising initiatives, such as Ethics Week events, conferences on specific topics and Ethics Day activities.

11.3. FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY

11.3.1. EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy

The [EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy](#) defines prohibited conduct as corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, theft at EIB Group premises, obstruction, misuse of EIB Group resources or assets, money laundering and financing of terrorism. In line with this policy, the EIB Group is committed to ensuring that its funds are used for their intended purposes. The EIB Group works to keep its activities and operations free from prohibited conduct and takes timely action to prevent and address any cases that arise.

The [Inspectorate General's Investigations Division](#) leads the EIB Group in investigating and preventing fraud and corruption. It operates with full independence.

Any suspicion of prohibited conduct must be reported promptly to the Inspectorate General's Investigations Division. The division assesses each report to determine whether a formal investigation is warranted. When they are needed, investigations are conducted thoroughly and fairly. Those found to have engaged in prohibited conduct are subject to sanctions in line with the Bank's policies and procedures. The Investigations Division can receive allegations of prohibited conduct and misconduct from any person and through different venues for [reporting fraud and misconduct](#).

The division's [Procedures for the Conduct of Investigations](#) set clear guidelines for investigating allegations or suspicions of prohibited conduct across EIB Group activities, and breaches of the Bank's [Staff Regulations](#) and the [Staff Regulations of the European Investment Fund](#), the [EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy](#), the [EIB Group Staff Code of Conduct](#) and the [EIB Group Dignity at Work Policy](#).

The Investigations Division enjoys complete independence to exercise its responsibilities, and the division head has full authority to open, pursue, close and report on any investigation within its remit without prior notice to, or the consent of, or interference from, any other person or entity, pursuant to the relevant investigation procedures.

The EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy is available to all EIB Group staff on the Bank and EIF intranet, and on the websites of the Bank and EIF for clients, counterparties and the general public.

For a detailed record of activities, see the annual report of the Inspectorate General's Investigations Division, the [Investigations Activity Report 2024](#).

11.3.2. Preventing and detecting corruption and bribery

11.3.2.1. Managing, controlling and monitoring risk

EIB Group management identifies risks and ensures controls are in place to address them.

As described in the [EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy](#), these controls include:

- a clear separation of tasks between business generation and monitoring, front and back offices, front line procedures and independent verification and monitoring;
- the "four eyes" principle, meaning that at least two people must approve key steps and support processes;
- due diligence on counterparties;

- checks and controls during the appraisal of new operations;
- specific standard provisions in financing agreements to prevent and deter prohibited conduct;
- measures related to project procurement following the [Guide to procurement for projects financed by the EIB](#);
- monitoring of active operations by operational services and control functions to ensure that project implementation goes as planned and that any risk is spotted early.

11.3.2.2. Operations assessed for corruption risk

The [EIB Group Anti-Fraud Policy](#) contains specific measures to prevent fraud and corruption during project appraisal. The Operations Directorate acts as the first line of defence, using employees' knowledge of counterparties and context to identify and prevent prohibited conduct. Integrity concerns that arise during loan appraisal are reported to the relevant EIB Group compliance teams in a timely manner.

The [Inspectorate General's Investigations Division](#) proactively reviews projects for integrity, flagging prohibited conduct that might otherwise go undetected by usual monitoring and reporting.

It uses the following tools:

1. The fraud and integrity risk scoring tool: an automated system that assesses risk across the Bank's active operations.
2. Desktop reviews: comprehensive reviews of projects flagged by the fraud and integrity risk scoring tool, which helps select cases for a full proactive integrity review.
3. Proactive integrity review: on-site review of selected projects to ensure that the Bank's funds are used as intended.

11.3.2.3. Awareness training

The EIB Group runs training programmes to raise staff awareness of the risks that fraud, corruption and other prohibited conduct pose to projects and activities. They also familiarise employees with the relevant policy framework. The programmes share knowledge, develop employees' ability to identify red flags of fraud and corruption, and cultivate a proactive approach to managing these risks. After completing the training programme, employees have a duty to report potential issues in their daily work, and to reject any justification of fraud or corruption. The programme includes mandatory, virtual anti-fraud training for new staff, and an annual refresher course for all Bank employees.

Focus on functions at risk

The frontline services of the EIB Group are considered the most at risk for corruption and bribery. These services include – but are not limited to – those involved in operational and financial activities, portfolio management and monitoring, and project structuring. All of these functions are 100% covered by the training programmes described above.

11.3.3. Measuring prevention and detection of corruption and bribery

The **Investigations Division** receives allegations from various internal and external sources. It can also open cases on its own initiative, based on findings from proactive integrity reviews or reports from public sources. The Intake and Analysis Unit assesses, reviews and prioritises all incoming allegations to decide whether they fall within the Investigations Division's remit, and if an investigation is needed.

FIGURE 1: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ACTIVE ASSESSMENTS on 1 JAN	85	82	42	93	91
+					
NEW ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED	183	174	180	169	244
-					
CASES CLOSED AT ASSESSMENT*	104	137	77	117	161
-					
CASES PASSED ON TO INVESTIGATORS	82	77	52	54	40
=					
ACTIVE ASSESSMENTS ON 31 DEC	82	42	93	91	134

* This includes dignity at work allegations passed on to Human Resources, obvious non-cases and cases closed at assessment with or without monitoring.

Source: EIB Group

The Investigations Division received 244 new allegations in 2024, an increase from previous years. Fraud accounted for 69% of cases, followed by code of conduct breaches at 15% and corruption related to EIB Group operations at 11%.

The table below details the annual turnover of cases, including 40 cases that advanced from the assessment to the investigation stage in 2024.

FIGURE 2: ANNUAL TURNOVER OF INVESTIGATION CASES

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
INVESTIGATION CASES ACTIVE on 1 JAN	123	114	124	106	105
+					
NEW CASES	82	77	52	54	40
-					
CASES COMPLETED	91	67	70	55	53
=					
INVESTIGATION CASES ACTIVE ON 31 DEC	114	124	106	105	92

Source: EIB Group

Internal cases involve alleged prohibited conduct by EIB Group staff, governing bodies or equivalent persons, such as contractors working on EIB premises. External cases concern alleged prohibited conduct affecting parties outside the EIB Group, such as parties involved in projects financed by the EIB Group.

11.4. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING, COMBATting THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND TAX GOOD GOVERNANCE

This chapter outlines the framework in place to manage risks related to money laundering, combatting the financing of terrorism and tax good governance. For more details on these topics and on economic and financial sanctions, market abuse, institutional conflicts of interest or requirements stemming from the [Markets in Financial Instruments Directive \(MiFID\)](#), see the [EIB Group Compliance Activity Report 2024](#).

11.4.1. EIB Group policies

11.4.1.1. EIB Group Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism Policy

The [EIB Group Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism Policy](#) outlines the EIB Group's approach to preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It covers key definitions, a risk-based compliance framework, due diligence procedures for counterparties, ongoing monitoring, reporting obligations, sanctions compliance, data management, staff training and regular reviews. The policy applies to EIB Group entities and covers professional activities as set out in the relevant procedures. It focuses on preventing the misuse of the EIB Group for money laundering, terrorism financing or other criminal activities.

The Group's chief compliance officer independently oversees compliance risk, and ensures proper identification, assessment and monitoring across the EIB Group, under the oversight of the Group chief risk officer. The Group chief compliance officer has direct access to the Bank's president, [Management Committee](#), [Audit Committee](#), [Ethics and Compliance Committee](#) and relevant EIB Board of Directors' working groups. At the EIF, the chief compliance officer reports to the chief risk officer, and has direct access to the chief executive, deputy chief executive and statutory bodies.

11.4.1.2. EIB Group Policy towards weakly regulated, non-transparent and non-cooperative jurisdictions and tax good governance

The [EIB Group Policy towards weakly regulated, non-transparent and non-cooperative jurisdictions and tax good governance](#) outlines due diligence standards for operations linked to such jurisdictions, and sets out the EIB Group's approach to tax good governance. It reinforces the EIB Group's expectation that contracting counterparties disclose relevant governance information during due diligence procedures for tax integrity and throughout the business relationship, if needed. The EIB Group strives to engage only with counterparties compliant with applicable laws and best market practices, including those related to taxation and anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism.

Indicators such as tax avoidance concerns or jurisdictions listed under the relevant EU policies for tax, anti-money laundering or counterterrorism purposes are treated as higher risk. These trigger enhanced due diligence measures. In line with these policies, the EIB Group may choose not to participate in certain projects, or take steps to make sure that any issues highlighted by the relevant EU policies are prevented.

When EIB Group funds are passed on to final beneficiaries through financial intermediaries, their allocation should be in line with the principles in the EIB Group Policy towards weakly regulated, non-transparent and non-cooperative jurisdictions and tax good governance. The EIB Group is committed to preventing misuse of its operations for tax fraud, evasion and avoidance.

The core principles of the policy are the following:

- prohibition of entering new or renewed operations linked to certain prohibited or restricted jurisdictions;
- enhanced due diligence for operations connected to non-cooperative jurisdictions;
- mandatory reporting of operations connected to non-cooperative jurisdictions to the EIB Board of Directors.

The policy covers all new or renewed EIB Group operations and is available on the EIB Group's website.

The policy covers recent European and international regulatory developments in tax integrity and good governance, such as [European Council conclusions on non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes](#), the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's base erosion and profit shifting project](#) and the [EU anti-tax avoidance package](#).

More information on the EIB Group Policy towards weakly regulated, non-transparent and non-cooperative jurisdictions and tax good governance is available on the relevant [Frequently Asked Questions page of the EIB website](#).

11.4.2. EIB Group actions

11.4.2.1. Fighting money laundering and terrorism financing

The EIB Group carries out due diligence on the counterparties of certain operations. The process takes into account the type of counterparty, the nature of the business relationship, the product or transaction, and the country of operation. Due diligence continues after the deal is signed, to spot potential risks related to money laundering, terrorist financing or integrity concerns. The scope and frequency of this monitoring are adjusted based on the level of risk.

11.4.2.2. Enhanced vigilance and tax integrity due diligence

All EIB Group operations undergo a risk-based assessment as part of the due diligence process. The scope of tax integrity due diligence depends on the counterparties involved in the operation and whether any concerns were flagged. Based on the outcome, the EIB Group may choose not to enter into a business relationship, ask counterparties to resolve outstanding issues or apply other measures to reduce risks.

The EIB Group's tax good governance framework encourages counterparties to comply with EU tax good governance standards. The framework deters the financing of projects that fail to meet those standards.

11.4.2.3. Reporting suspicious activities

Any suspicion of money laundering or terrorist financing is first reported internally for review. If the suspicion remains, the case is reported to the [Luxembourg Financial Intelligence Unit](#). Tipping off a prospective or existing counterparty of such a report breaches professional duties and may lead to an investigation of the person involved.

11.4.2.4. Anti-money laundering control oversight testing

The Bank and EIF compliance teams regularly monitor first-line controls. Where control or data weaknesses are identified, the control framework is strengthened as needed.

11.4.2.5. Prohibition

The EIB Group does not enter into new or renewed operations that involve links to prohibited jurisdictions or to restricted jurisdictions through a non-cooperative jurisdiction, except in limited cases. Exceptions may apply when a project is physically implemented in a country where the EIB Group operates under an EU mandate. These are designed to avoid penalising local populations and to support the EU objectives on development, cooperation and economic, social and territorial cohesion, as set out in Articles 209 and 309 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) and its Protocol No 28. The EIB Group performs enhanced due diligence to determine whether any risk of misuse for criminal activities like money laundering, terrorism financing or tax offences must be mitigated.

11.4.2.6. Training and awareness raising

The EIB Group is committed to providing regular training on compliance and organises events to raise awareness. To minimise compliance, conduct and reputational risks, the EIB Group promotes a strong integrity culture. All EIB Group staff must complete annual virtual courses on anti-money laundering, combatting terrorist financing, and fraud and corruption awareness.



A wide-angle photograph of a glacier landscape. In the foreground, several large, jagged icebergs with varying shades of blue and white float in a calm body of water. The middle ground shows a vast, flat expanse of a glacier extending towards the horizon. In the background, a range of rugged mountains with snow-capped peaks is visible under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

PART VII

ANNEX

A.1. LINKS TO OTHER SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

A.1.1. The Global Reporting Initiative

A.1.1.1. References to the Global Reporting Initiative

TABLE 1: GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI) REFERENCES

Topic	Reference	Title	Reported under	
GRI 2 - General Disclosures	2-1	Organisational details	About the EIB Group	
	2-2	Entities included in the organisation's sustainability reporting	I.	
	2-3	Reporting period, frequency and contact point	I.	
	2-5	External assurance	I.	
	2-6	Activities, value chain and other business relationships	I., 1.2, A.1.1.2.1, EMAS report	
	2-7	Employees	10.5	
	2-9	Governance structure and composition	1.1, 1.2, A.1.1.2.2	
	2-10	Nomination and selection of the highest governance body	1.1.3	
	2-11	Chair of the highest governance body	1.1	
	2-12	Role of the highest governance body in overseeing the management of impacts	1.1	
	2-13	Delegation of responsibility for managing impacts	1.1.1.3, 1.1.1	
	2-14	Role of the highest governance body in sustainability reporting	1.1.5	
	2-15	Conflicts of interest	11.3.1	
	2-16	Communication of critical concerns	1.5.4	
	2-17	Collective knowledge of the highest governance body	1.1.3.3	
	2-18	Evaluation of the performance of the highest governance body	1.1.3	
	2-19	Remuneration policies	1.1.3	
	2-20	Process to determine remuneration	1.1.3	
	2-21	Annual total compensation ratio	10.4.8.3, 10.5	
	2-22	Statement on sustainable development strategy	1.2	
	2-23	Policy commitments	3.1.3, 4.1.3, 5.1.3, 6.1.3, 7.1.3, 8.1.3, 9.1.3, 10.1.2, 11.1.3, 1.3.4.2	
	2-24	Embedding policy commitments	1.1.5.1, 1.1.5.2, 9.4.1.4	
	2-25	Processes to remediate negative impacts	8.8	
	2-26	Mechanisms for seeking advice and raising concerns	1.5.4, 11.3.3	
	2-27	Compliance with laws and regulations	11.1.3, 11.2.1, A.1.1.2.3	
	2-28	Membership associations	1.5.3.5	
	2-29	Approach to stakeholder engagement	1.5	
	2-30	Collective bargaining agreements	10.3.1, A.1.1.2.4	
	GRI 3 - Material topics	3-1	Process to determine material topics	I.
		3-2	List of material topics	I.
3-3		Management of material topics	1.4.1, 11.3.2, EMAS report, 2., 3., 7.1, 10.2.2	

Topic	Reference	Title	Reported under
GRI 201 - Economic performance 2016	201-1	Direct economic value generated and distributed	1.3.2.1
	201-2	Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change	1.3.2.1
	201-3	Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans	A.1.1.2.5
	201-4	Financial assistance received from government	A.1.1.2.6
GRI 202 - Market presence 2016	202-1	Ratios of standard entry level wage by gender compared to local minimum wage	A.1.1.2.7
	202-2	Proportion of senior management hired from the local community	A.1.1.2.8
GRI 203 - Indirect economic impacts 2016	203-1	Infrastructure investments and services supported	1.3.2.1
	203-2	Significant indirect economic impacts	1.2, 8.2.7
GRI 204 - Procurement practices 2016	204-1	Proportion of spending on local suppliers	EMAS report
GRI 205 - Anti-corruption 2016	205-1	Operations assessed for risks related to corruption	11.3.2
	205-2	Communication and training about anti-corruption policies and procedures	11.3.2
	205-3	Confirmed incidents of corruption and actions taken	11.3.3
GRI 302 - Energy 2016	302-1	Energy consumption within the organisation	EMAS report
	302-2	Energy consumption outside of the organisation	EMAS report
	302-3	Energy intensity	EMAS report
	302-4	Reduction of energy consumption	EMAS report
GRI 303 - Water and effluents 2016	303-1	Interactions with water as a shared resource	EMAS report
	303-2	Management of water discharge-related impacts	EMAS report
	303-3	Water withdrawal	EMAS report
	303-4	Water discharge	EMAS report
	303-5	Water consumption	EMAS report
GRI 304 - Biodiversity 2016	304-2	Significant impacts of activities, products and services on biodiversity	5.3.3, 6.3.2
	304-3	Habitats protected or restored	6.1.1
	304-4	IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations	EMAS report
GRI 305 - Emissions 2016	305-1	Direct (Scope 1) greenhouse gas emissions	EMAS report
	305-2	Energy indirect (Scope 2) greenhouse gas emissions	EMAS report
	305-3	Other indirect (Scope 3) greenhouse gas emissions	EMAS report
	305-4	Greenhouse gas emissions intensity	EMAS report
	305-5	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	EMAS report
GRI 306 - Waste 2020	306-1	Waste generation and significant waste-related impacts	EMAS report
	306-2	Management of significant waste-related impacts	EMAS report
	306-3	Waste generated	EMAS report
	306-4	Waste diverted from disposal	EMAS report
	306-5	Waste directed to disposal	EMAS report
GRI 308 - Supplier environmental assessment 2016	308-1	New suppliers that were screened using environmental criteria	EMAS report
	308-2	Negative environmental impacts in the supply chain and actions taken	EMAS report

Topic	Reference	Title	Reported under
GRI 401 - Employment 2016	401-1	New employee hires and employee turnover	A.1.1.2.9
	401-2	Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees	10.4.6, A.1.1.2.10
	401-3	Parental leave	10.4.7.3, 10.5
GRI 403 - Occupational health and safety 2018	403-1	Occupational health and safety management system	10.2.3, 10.4.6
	403-2	Hazard identification, risk assessment, and incident investigation	10.4.6.2
	403-3	Occupational health services	10.4.6.2
	403-4	Worker participation, consultation, and communication on occupational health and safety	10.4.6.2, 10.2.3
	403-5	Worker training on occupational health and safety	10.4.6.3
	403-6	Promotion of worker health	10.4.6.1
	403-7	Prevention and mitigation of occupational health and safety impacts directly linked by business relationships	10.4.6.3
	403-8	Workers covered by an occupational health and safety management system	A.1.1.2.11
	403-9	Work-related injuries	A.1.1.2.12
GRI 404 - Training and education 2016	404-1	Average hours of training per year per employee	10.5
	404-2	Programmes for upgrading employee skills and transition assistance programmes	10.4.5.1
	404-3	Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews	10.5, 10.4.5.2
GRI 414 - Supplier social assessment 2016	414-1	New suppliers that were screened using social criteria	EMAS report
	414-2	Negative social impacts in the supply chain and actions taken	EMAS report
GRI 405 - Diversity and equal opportunity 2016	405-1	Diversity of governance bodies and employees	1.1.3.1, 10.5
	405-2	Ratio of basic salary and remuneration of women to men	10.4.7.4, 10.5
GRI 406 - Non- discrimination 2016	406-1	Incidents of discrimination and corrective actions taken	A.1.1.2.13
GRI 407 - Freedom of association and collective bargaining 2016	407-1	Operations and suppliers in which the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining may be at risk	EMAS report
GRI 408 - Child labour 2016	408-1	Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of child labour	9.3.2
GRI 409 - Forced or compulsory labour 2016	409-1	Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labour	9.4
GRI 411 - Rights of indigenous peoples 2016	411-1	Incidents of violations involving rights of indigenous peoples	8.3.2, 8.4.4
GRI 413 - Local communities 2016	413-1	Operations with local community engagement, impact assessments and development programmes	8.6.1
	413-2	Operations with significant actual and potential negative impacts on local communities	8.7.1

A.1.1.2. Additional items for the Global Reporting Initiative

A.1.1.2.1. GRI 2-6: Activities, value chain and other business relationships

TABLE 2: GRI 2-6.3: EIB-FINANCED PROJECTS IN 2024, BY SECTOR

Sectors	€ million
Agriculture, fisheries, forestry	584
Composite infrastructure	888
Credit lines	18 799
Education	2 977
Energy	17 733
Health	1 902
Industry	8 410
Services	4 185
Telecommunications	1 694
Transport	11 754
Urban development	4 103
Solid waste	193
Water, sewerage	3 392
Total	76 614

A.1.1.2.2. GRI 2-9: Governance structure and composition

List of codes of conduct that apply to the governing bodies of the Bank and the EIF:

European Investment Bank

- Code of Conduct for the members of the Audit Committee of the EIB
- Code of Conduct of the Board of Directors
- Code of Conduct of the Management Committee
- Integrity Policy and Compliance Charter

European Investment Fund

- Code of Conduct for the Members of the Audit Board
- Code of Conduct for the Members and Alternate Members of the Board of Directors
- Code of Conduct: Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive

A.1.1.2.3. GRI 2-27: Compliance with laws and regulations

TABLE 3: GRI 2-27.1: TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS CLEARED

Clearances	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appointments to external bodies	124	143	129	11
External activities	49	84	58	83
Gifts	21	62	35	45

A.1.1.2.4. GRI 2-30: Collective bargaining agreements

Salaries and terms of employment at the EIB Group are regulated by the Bank's governing bodies, which are oriented towards EU best practices and adhere to the highest social standards.

The Bank is committed to respecting the principles set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which all organisations shall promote social dialogue, social protection, workers' health and safety, information and consultation of workers. At the Bank, staff are represented by the College of Staff Representatives and by trade unions.

As laid out in the [Convention governing Staff Representation at the European Investment Bank](#), the College of Staff Representatives shall represent the entire staff of the Bank and shall be able to meet in an assembly to consider any current issue, including any matter involving consultation with the administration. It must be underlined that this convention is a collective instrument negotiated between the Bank and representatives of its staff.

The College of Staff Representatives consists of 13 elected members. The College of Staff Representatives represents the general interests of staff and is consulted by management on staff rules, issues of remuneration, training and welfare, the appraisal system and appeals procedures. It ensures that staff have a collective voice.

In addition, the [Staff Regulations](#) were recently amended to recognise trade unions at the Bank. Pursuant to Article 24 of the Staff Regulations, "staff shall be entitled to exercise the right of association and may be members of trade unions." Trade unions shall act in the general interest of the staff vis-à-vis the Bank, without prejudice to the powers awarded to the College of Staff Representatives. Allowing trade unions to operate at the Bank and represent staff will enhance social dialogue, ensuring diverse representation and contributions.

A.1.1.2.5. GRI 201-3: Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans

The Bank's and the EIF's main pension schemes are funded by contributions from staff and from the Bank and the EIF, covering all employees. All contributions made are invested in the assets of the Bank and the EIF. On 31 December 2024, the staff pension plan amounted to €4 789 314 000 (€4 458 598 000 in 2023; €4 127 980 000 in 2022). These figures do not include the liability to staff under the Optional Supplementary Provident Scheme (a defined contribution pension scheme), the corresponding amount being €1.004 billion (€896 million in 2023; €848 million in 2022).

The provision in respect of future retirement and health insurance benefits was valued as of 31 December 2024 by an independent actuary using the projected unit credit method based on membership data as of 30 September 2024 and cash flows to 31 December 2024. The actuarial valuation was updated as of 31 December 2024, using the prevailing market rates of 31 December 2024 and other assumptions.

A.1.1.2.6. GRI 201-4: Financial assistance received from government

The Bank is owned by the EU Member States. In accordance with Article 4 of its [Statute](#), the capital of the Bank is subscribed by the Member States. "The Bank shall borrow on the capital markets the funds necessary for the performance of its tasks" (EIB Statute, Article 20). In certain cases, it may be entrusted with further funds from Member States and/or the EU budget to implement activities supporting EU policy goals.

A.1.1.2.7. GRI 202-1: Ratios of standard entry level wage by gender compared to local minimum wage

The Bank and the EIF offer fair terms of employment and a competitive remuneration package. It is composed of the base salary, variable remuneration, allowances and benefits, including the pension scheme. The Bank conducts regular remuneration surveys to monitor the external competitiveness of its pay conditions. Based on the salary ranges (in gross terms, as of 31 December 2024), the minimum annual base salary was €41 566 irrespective of gender or background. The minimum annual wage in Luxembourg was €30 851 for unskilled workers over 18 years of age, and €37 021 for skilled workers over 18, as of May 2025.

A.1.1.2.8. GRI 202-2: Proportion of senior management hired from the local community

The EIB Group employs diverse staff from all 27 EU Member States. Aside from its headquarters in Luxembourg, there are several smaller regional offices, which are representative and/or operational units. Their personnel are usually appointed from the head office for a fixed period. The EIB Group may also hire local agents to reinforce its regional offices. Recruitment activities are centralised in Luxembourg.

A.1.1.2.9. GRI 401-1: New employee hires and employee turnover in 2024

TABLE 4: GRI 401-1.1: NEWLY HIRED EIB GROUP EMPLOYEES, BY AGE AND GENDER

Age group	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Under 30 years	54	29%	38	21%	92	25%
30-50 years	128	68%	132	73%	260	70%
Over 50 years	7	4%	12	7%	19	5%
Total	189	100%	182	100%	371	100%

TABLE 5: GRI 401-1.2: EIB GROUP EMPLOYEE TURNOVER, BY AGE AND GENDER

Age group	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Under 30 years	20	22%	23	24%	43	23%
30-50 years	41	44%	30	32%	71	38%
Over 50 years	32	34%	42	44%	74	39%
Total	93	100%	95	100%	188	100%

These figures may include deferred pension, early retirement, retirement with pay, end of fixed-term contract, non-confirmation after trial period, resignation, or illness/disability. Neither table above includes transfers between the Bank and the EIF.

A.1.1.2.10. GRI 401-2: Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees

All personnel are eligible for a wide range of benefits, subject to the fulfilment of specific criteria. In this context, the EIB Group does not differentiate between full-time and part-time employees. The Bank and EIF packages include family, pension and healthcare benefits; as well as, for example, life and accident insurance, disability and invalidity coverage, and parental leave. Other benefits, such as an expatriation package and housing loan interest subsidy, are also offered. Other in-kind benefits are, among others, the provision of sports facilities, subsidised meals and similar general employee welfare programmes.

A.1.1.2.11. GRI 403-8: Workers covered by an occupational health and safety management system

100% of staff are covered by the Group’s Health, Well-being and Safety Policy and the work of the Health and Safety Committee.

A.1.1.2.12. GRI 403-9: Work-related injuries

Accidents and injuries occur very rarely at the EIB Group, due to the nature of working in a bank. Work-related injuries, including the commute and injuries at home while teleworking, are covered by the Group’s insurance policies.

A.1.1.2.13. GRI 406-1: Incidents of discrimination and corrective actions taken

In 2024, no request for administrative review with regard to unequal treatment and gender discrimination was upheld and, therefore, no corrective actions had to be taken.

A.1.2. REFERENCES TO THE SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD

Topic	Title	Reported under
SASB activity metrics	Investment banking and brokerage	A.1.1.2.1
SASB accounting metric	Employee diversity and inclusion	10.5
	Incorporation of environmental, social and governance factors in investment banking and brokerage activities	1.3.4.2, 1.3.4.3
	Business ethics	11.2.1.2, A.1.2.2.1
	Systemic risk management	A.1.2.2.2, A.1.2.2.3
	Data security	A.1.2.2.4, A.1.2.2.5
	Financial inclusion and capacity building	1.3.2.1
	Community relations	1.5.2, 1.5.3
	Climate action	1.2, 3.3.3
	Greenhouse gas emissions	3.5, EMAS report, 3.4

A.1.2.2. Additional items for the Sustainability and Accounting Standards Board

A.1.2.2.1. Business ethics metric “Monetary losses as a result of legal proceedings” (FN-IB-510a.1)

The Bank has no monetary losses recognised in its 2024 accounts as a result of legal proceedings associated with fraud, insider trading, anti-trust, anti-competitive behaviour, market manipulation, malpractice or other related financial industry laws or regulations, based on the materiality aspect for the annual financial statements.

A.1.2.2.2. Systemic risk management metric “Buffer for systemic relevance” (FN-IB-550a.1)

Although it is not a global systemically important bank, the EIB Group annually assesses its own systemic relevance with a process conforming to applicable best banking practices. As explained in the [EIB Group Risk Management Disclosure Report](#), the self-imposed buffer for systemic relevance was released during 2024, based on the independent self-assessment of the Group.

A.1.2.2.3. Systemic risk management metric “Systemic risk management” (FN-IB-550a.2)

The EIB Group implements a holistic capital planning and management process which ensures that its operations are compatible with its risk appetite, on a historical and a forward-looking basis. The Bank uses various metrics, including regulatory capital, for assessing the adequacy of its capital base and for determining the available capital for its new business activities. In the context of its annual operational plan, it prepares projections of key risk metrics to ensure that the proposed business plan is sustainable from a capital perspective. The capital management and planning framework also incorporates regular stress tests and sensitivity analyses, to test the Bank’s resilience to both systemic and idiosyncratic stresses.

For more information, see the [EIB Group Risk Management Disclosure Report, June 2024](#) and [December 2024](#).

A.1.2.2.4. Data security metric “Cybersecurity attacks or breaches” (FN-CB-230a.1)

The Bank did not record any material instances of breach by unauthorised third parties in 2024. However, a major attack targeting the Bank in May 2024 caused its corporate website to be partially inaccessible for several hours, reflecting the geopolitical tensions that Europe has been facing in recent years. The limited impact of the attack compared to the previous year is a demonstration of the efforts made by the Bank to improve controls and mitigate such threats.

A.1.2.2.5. Data security metric “Data security risks” (FN-CB-230a.2)

In response to growing and evolving global cybersecurity threats, the Bank is putting in place what it considers to be measures appropriate for its business, and remains on heightened alert to such risks. The Bank has implemented a formal cybersecurity risk management framework that protects its critical IT infrastructure while adhering to EU and Bank policies on privacy and civil liberties. This policy framework has been embedded into the governance structure so that senior management receives regular reports on developments and metrics. The policy framework is regularly updated to reflect best practice and the risk appetite.

Ongoing technical and non-technical initiatives, cyber resilience assessments, risk assessments of new IT solutions, mainstreaming of simulations, training and compliance ensure the continuous development of policy measures and adherence to them. The management of cybersecurity risks is largely addressed by available in-house expertise and contracted external support or guidance, as required.

Throughout 2024, internal information and communication technology (ICT) controls were thoroughly applied, which was confirmed by an annual self-assessment on the design effectiveness of general internal ICT controls.

A.1.3. Relation with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

A.1.3.1. References to the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

TCFD pillar	TCFD recommended disclosure	Reported under
1 - Governance	Describe the board's oversight of climate-related risks and opportunities	General disclosures / 1.1 Sustainability Governance (Layer A + Layer B)
	Describe management's role in assessing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities	General disclosures / 1.1 Sustainability Governance (Layer C)
2 - Strategy	Describe the climate-related risks and opportunities the organisation has identified over the short, medium and long term	2.1 Financing climate action and environmental sustainability; 3.3.3 Managing climate risks and Paris alignment
	Describe the impact of climate-related risks and opportunities on the organisation's businesses, strategy and financial planning	1.3.5 Sustainability Risk management 3.3 Climate change actions
	Describe the resilience of the organisation's strategy, taking into consideration different climate-related scenarios, including a 2°C or lower scenario	3.3.3. Actions for assessing and managing climate-related risks at the portfolio level
3 - Risk management	Describe the organisation's processes for identifying and assessing climate-related risks	1.3.5 Sustainability Risk management
	Describe the organisation's processes for managing climate-related risks	1.3.5 Sustainability Risk management 3.3.3 Managing climate risks and Paris alignment
	Describe how processes for identifying, assessing and managing climate-related risks are integrated into the organisation's overall risk management	3.3.3 Managing climate risks and Paris alignment
	Disclose the metrics used by the organisation to assess climate-related risks and opportunities in line with its strategy and risk management process	3.3.3.4 Overview of portfolio climate risks
4 - Metrics and Targets	Disclose scope 1, scope 2 and, if appropriate, scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions, and the related risks	3.4 Carbon footprint of the Banks financing
	Describe the targets used by the organisation to manage climate-related risks and opportunities against targets	3.5 Climate goals and actions in EIB Group own operations

A.2. CARBON FOOTPRINT OF EIB FINANCING (2014-2024)

TABLE 1: CARBON FOOTPRINT OF EIB FINANCING, 2014-2024

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019**	2020**	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of projects	70	73	70	55	68	96	99	86	91	80	82
Total EIB amount Signed (in € billion)	15.1	11.2	17.7	9.4	9.5	13.6	14.4	15.6	16	24	16.6
Absolute emissions (in Mt CO ₂ e/year)*	4.9	5.6	0.4	5.2	2.2	3.9	5.2	2.3	1.6	1.2	2.6
Carbon sequestration from forestry (in Mt CO ₂ e/year)*	-0.2	-1	-3.5	-0.3	-2.8	-0.9	-0.3	0	0	0	0
Absolute emissions per sector (in Mt CO₂e/year)*											
Industry	0.6	1.9	0.2	3.7	0.3	1	2.1	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.1
Energy	2.9	3	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.9	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Mobility	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.6
Other (water, sewerage, forestry, food and agriculture)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.7
Relative emissions per sector (in Mt CO₂e/year)*											
Industry	-0.2	-0.1	0	-0.3	0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	0
Energy	-2.6	-2.5	-2.3	-2.4	-2.9	-1.9	-2.8	-1.7	-3.9	-4.5	-4.6
Mobility	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1
Other (water, sewerage, forestry, food and agriculture)	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4	-0.1	-1.0

* Emissions and carbon sequestration are prorated to EIB lending volume prior to aggregation. Total project emissions (absolute) and savings (relative) would be significantly larger. Mt CO₂e = megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

** Note that a different threshold for absolute emissions and carbon sequestration from forestry applied from 2019 onwards (+/-100 tCO₂e/year); therefore, direct comparison with 2019 and 2020 for absolute emissions data is not possible.

*** The relative emissions figure for 2019 has been adjusted from the figure reported in the previous Sustainability Report (-3.1 Mt CO₂e/year) due to a correction in data.

Acronyms

- ADAPT: Climate Adaptation Investment Advisory Platform
- CAB: Climate Awareness Bond
- CO₂e: Carbon dioxide equivalent
- COPIP: Clean Oceans Project Identification and Preparation
- EDGE: Economic Dividends for Gender Equality
- EIB: European Investment Bank, also referred to as the “Bank”
- EIF: European Investment Fund, also referred to as the “Fund”
- EMAS: Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
- ESG: Environmental, social and governance
- ESIA: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
- GHG: Greenhouse gas
- GRI: Global Reporting Initiative
- IFI: International financial institution
- ILO: International Labour Organization
- KfW: Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
- MDB: Multilateral development bank
- NDICI: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- PATH: Paris Alignment for Counterparties
- PFAS: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
- REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
- SAB: Sustainable Awareness Bond
- SASB: Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
- SMEs: Small and medium-sized enterprises
- TCFD: Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

Glossary

- **Affected communities:** People or groups living or working in the same area that have been or may be affected by a project supported by the EIB Group. Affected communities can range from those living near EIB Group projects (local communities) to those living far away. Affected communities include actually and potentially affected indigenous peoples.
- **Client:** Covers all organisations that the EIB Group establishes a commercial relationship with, including counterparties, banks, issuers and subsidiaries.
- **Counterparty:** Most commonly, legal entities with whom the EIB Group has a direct or indirect business relationship.
- **Due diligence:** The purpose of the environmental, climate and social due diligence of proposed projects is to support the decision of whether to approve financing. If financing is approved, the due diligence process also increases the efficacy of how impact and risks are managed and monitored throughout the project cycle.
- **Intermediary:** Intermediaries lend EIB Group funds on to final beneficiaries (including framework loans intermediated through a financial institution), lend funds to final beneficiaries by using an EIB Group guarantee, or use EIB Group funds to invest in a portfolio of investee companies. Intermediaries include, but are not limited to, commercial banks, national/regional promotional banks, leasing companies and other financial institutions, funds and microfinance institutions.
- **Project:** A set of defined works, goods, services and/or business activities for which EIB financing is sought, either directly or through an intermediated financing structure, for a specific sub-project/underlying investment, as approved by the EIB's governing bodies.
- **Promoter:** The EIB counterpart implementing a project, as defined in the finance contract.
- **Rights-holders:** From a human rights perspective, all individuals and population groups that can make valid fundamental rights claims to EIB-financed project. Rights-holders are persons who are adversely affected by the project, actually or potentially. The term includes project-affected persons, local community members, workers, etc.
- **Stakeholder:** Persons and/or communities directly or indirectly affected by an EIB-financed project (including their legitimate representatives), or those with an interest in the project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively; and members of the project workforce.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** An inclusive and iterative process that involves, in varying degrees, identification and analysis of stakeholders, engagement planning, information disclosure, meaningful consultation, and a mechanism ensuring access to grievance and remedy.



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To the management of the
EIB Group
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Independent limited assurance report

We were engaged by the management of the European Investment Bank Group (the European Investment Bank “EIB” and the European Investment Fund “EIF” together referred to as the “Group”) to report in the form of an independent limited assurance conclusion that, based on the work performed and evidence obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the statements and indicators marked in italics and with a tick that are disclosed in the EIB Group Sustainability Report (the “Report”), are not prepared in all material respects, in accordance with the EIBG internal framework (“Criteria”) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities of the EIB Group management

The management of the EIB Group is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the EIB Group Sustainability Report and the information and assertions contained within it, in accordance with the Criteria applicable in 2024 at the EIB Group; for determining the EIB Group’s objectives in respect of sustainable development performance and reporting, including the identification of stakeholders and material issues; and for establishing and maintaining appropriate performance management and internal control systems from which the reported performance information is derived.

This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation of the Report.

The management of the EIB Group is responsible for preventing and detecting fraud and for identifying and ensuring that the EIB Group complies with laws and regulations applicable to its activities.

The management of the EIB Group is responsible for ensuring that staff involved in the preparation and presentation of the Report are properly trained, information systems are properly updated and that any changes in reporting encompass all significant business units.

Our responsibilities

Our responsibility is to examine the Report and to report thereon in the form of an independent limited assurance conclusion based on the evidence obtained. We conducted our engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000, Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information, issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Boards as adopted for Luxembourg by the Institut des Réviseurs d’Entreprises (IRE).

That standard requires that we plan and perform our procedures to obtain limited assurance about whether the statements and indicators marked in italics and with a tick that are disclosed in the EIB Group Sustainability Report, prepared in accordance with the Criteria, for

the year ended 31 December 2024 and are free from material misstatements, as the basis for our limited assurance conclusion.

Our firm applies the International Standard on Quality Management 1, “Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements” (“ISQM 1”), as adopted for Luxembourg by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) and accordingly, maintains a comprehensive system of quality control, including the design, implementation and operation of a system of quality management of audits or reviews of financial statements, or other assurance and related services engagements.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code) as adopted for Luxembourg by the CSSF, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour.

Summary of work performed

A limited assurance engagement on the Report consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for the preparation of information presented in the Report, and applying analytical and other evidence gathering procedures, as appropriate, with relation to the statements and indicators marked in italics and with a tick ☑. These procedures included:

- inquiries of management to gain an understanding of the Group’s processes for determining the material issues for the Group’s stakeholder groups;
- interviews with relevant staff at corporate and business unit level responsible for providing the information in the Report;
- a media analysis and an internet search for references to the Group during the reporting period;
- inquiries about the design and implementation of the systems and methods used to collect and process the information reported, including the aggregation of data into information as presented in the Report;
- comparing the indicators and statements in the Report marked in italics and with a tick ☑ to corresponding information in the relevant underlying sources, when applicable;
- verifying that the indicators and statements in the Report marked in italics and with a tick ☑ were correctly derived from the Group’s 2024 audited financial statements, when applicable.

The procedures selected depend on our understanding of the statements and indicators marked in italics and with a tick ☑ within the Report and other engagement circumstances, and our consideration of areas where material misstatements are likely to arise.

Our engagement also included: assessing the appropriateness of the statements and indicators marked in italics and with a tick ☑ within the Report and the suitability of the criteria used by the EIB Group in preparing the statements and indicators marked in italics and with a tick ☑ within the Report in the circumstances of the engagement.

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

Inherent limitations

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that errors or irregularities may occur and may not be detected. Our limited assurance engagement is not designed to detect all weaknesses and errors in the Report as the evidence has been obtained on a sample basis. Accordingly, we do not express an audit or a reasonable assurance conclusion on the Report as a whole or on the indicators and statements in the Report marked in italics and with a tick ☒.

Further, the internal control structure within which the control procedures which are the subject of our engagement are designed to operate, has not been subject to any limited assurance procedures and no opinion is expressed as to its effectiveness.

Any projection of the suitability of design and implementation of controls and their meeting the requirements of the Report to future periods is subject to the risk that the procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate.

The limited assurance opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Conclusion

Our conclusion has been formed on the basis of, and is subject to, the matters outlined in this report.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Based on the procedures performed and evidence obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the indicators and statements in the Report marked in italics and with a tick ☒ are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the internal reporting criteria applicable in 2024 at the EIB Group.

Luxembourg, 31 October 2025

KPMG Audit S.à r.l,
Cabinet de révision agréé



M. Weber

SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT 2024



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