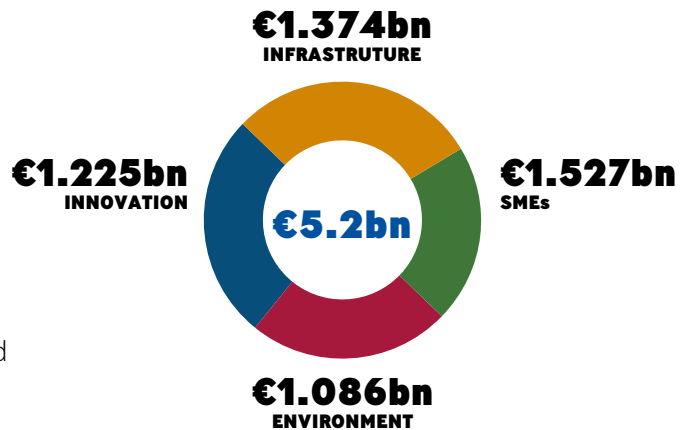


# EIB Group activity in Poland in 2020

- Total EIB Group financing reached €5.2 billion, with significant investments in infrastructure, innovation and strong support for small and medium-sized businesses
- Around 34% of the financing supported Poland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, via loans to the public and private sectors, businesses and local authorities
- A record 41% of EIB Group financing supported climate action and the environment

## EIB GROUP RESULTS AND PRIORITIES IN POLAND



## A year marked by the pandemic and green investments

With €5.2 billion of total financing, 2020 was another strong year for the European Investment Bank Group in Poland. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, volumes remained high. EIB lending contributed to Poland's response to the crisis. Loans by the European Investment bank (EIB) amounted to €4.6 billion, while the European Investment Fund (EIF), the EIB's subsidiary for small business, provided €660 million in guarantees and equity investments. Around one-third of the total financing went to the fight against COVID-19, helping both the public and private sectors to cope with the downturn.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, investments in a greener future continued. Highlights include loans amounting to a total of over €600 million for the construction of manufacturing plants and production of components for electric vehicle batteries, and loans to companies in the renewable energy sector - including windfarms and photovoltaics. The EIB also strengthened its partnerships with Polish cities and regions, lending PLN 4.4 billion (approximately €1 billion) to 17 Polish cities for their development plans. Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) was again significant, thanks to a well-established network of local lenders, investment funds and leasing companies.



*"If anything can be learnt from the past year, it is that emergency action can and must be accompanied by investments in the future. It is indeed significant that in 2020 the EIB Group not only maintained a high level of support for the Polish economy, but also managed to invest around one-third of its funds into COVID-19-related response initiatives and around 40% into climate action and environmental sustainability. We scaled up our green financing and we will continue to do so this year, while helping the public and private sectors to cope with the pandemic. A green recovery and support for innovation are two goals shared by Poland and the EIB."*

**TERESA CZERWIŃSKA**  
EIB Vice-President



# FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## Support for the Polish government

The EIB provided substantial support to the Polish government's Anti-Crisis plan to fight the pandemic and its economic and social consequences. A €650 million loan to the Ministry of Finance for COVID-19 financing was signed in September 2020 to strengthen Poland's emergency response system and increase its mid and long-term pandemic preparedness. EIB financing targeted health schemes and critical infrastructure and resources that ensure the safety and security of Polish citizens. Another milestone was the first operation with the state-owned development fund Polski Fundusz Rozwoju (PFR), a bond-buying operation for PLN 500 million (€110 million) through which the EIB supported the Financial Shield programme, a nationwide initiative established by the Polish government to protect employment and ensure access to financing for SMEs. A second bond buying operation for PLN 2 billion was signed in early February 2021.

## Support for the private sector

The EIB Group helped private companies and SMEs to cope with the pandemic. The EIB granted additional financing of €22.5 million to the chemical company PCC Rokita, increasing the loan granted in 2019 from €45 million to €67.5 million. The company, which has launched an ambitious low carbon development plan, received the backing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the financial pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe (the Juncker Plan).

Early in 2020, the EIF signed an agreement with Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) for additional resources to support Polish SMEs. Thanks to this agreement, backed by guarantees from COSME, the European Union's SME programme, Polish SMEs will benefit from a total loan volume of up to PLN 10.5 billion (equivalent to almost €2.5 billion).

Many transactions involved selected lenders and leasing companies. As an example of a joint operation, the EIF and EIB signed the third synthetic securitisation transaction with Santander Bank Polska Group in July 2020. This operation specifically aims to address the working capital and liquidity needs and investment constraints of Polish SMEs and mid-caps that were hit by the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thanks to the EIB Group's involvement, Santander Bank Polska can free up capital to lend to small businesses.

## In focus: biotech and hospitals

The European Investment Bank signed its first operation in Poland under the Infectious Diseases Finance Facility (IDFF), an initiative backed by Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme. The Bank agreed to lend up to €10 million to Scope Fluidics, a Polish medical technology company developing innovative products in the field of medical diagnostics. The loan will support the company's efforts to develop new, efficient and affordable methods for detection of pathogens causing infectious diseases, including COVID-19. At the end of 2020, the EIB Board of Directors approved a direct PLN 156 million (€35 million) loan for the modernisation of the Medical University in Lublin. The project will include investments to improve education facilities in the university and its three university teaching hospitals.

## FINANCING A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

### €1 billion for 17 Polish cities

**Renewable energy:** In 2020, a record 41% of EIB Group financing in Poland supported climate action and environmental sustainability, in line with what the group did at a global level. The EIB backed Poland's energy transition by signing loans with Pomerania Wind Farm (PLN 258 million, or €60 million), a subsidiary of the Lithuanian group Ignitis Renewables, and with the German company wpd, AG (PLN 184 million, or €42 million) for the construction of wind farms in north-west Poland. Both projects received the backing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The EIB also signed its first-ever financing for photovoltaics in Poland, with a PLN 82 million (€18 million) loan to Energy Solar Projekty, a company controlled by the Lithuanian-based Lords LB Asset Management. With a combined capacity of up to 66 MW, the solar plants will serve the equivalent of 19 000 households in northern Poland.

**Mobility:** A €480 million loan agreement with LG Chem Wroclaw Energy, the Polish subsidiary of the LG Chem Group, will finance the construction and operation of highly automated and innovative manufacturing facilities for advanced lithium-ion (li-ion) cells and batteries for battery-powered electric vehicles. A €125 million loan to Umicore, the Belgian-based global materials technology and recycling group, will finance the greenfield production facility for cathode materials that will be supplied to battery manufacturers of high-tech lithium-ion batteries, including LG Chem. These loans will help create a hub for the production of electrical vehicle batteries in the Wroclaw area.

**Urban agenda:** The EIB continued to finance the sustainable development and revitalisation plans of Polish cities and regions. In 2020, 17 cities received EIB loans for PLN 4.4 billion (approximately €1 billion) in total. EIB loans cover a variety of projects, including social housing in Szczecin, metro development in Warsaw, tramways in Krakow, and municipalities' plans for COVID-19 resilience. The first EIB loan to a Polish city with a population under 100 000 people (Ostrow Wielkopolski) was signed in September 2020 thanks to a scheme launched with the national promotional bank BGK. More loans of this kind will follow under a new PLN 700 million programme for small and medium municipalities, which was approved at the end of 2020. The EIB also continues to leverage EU Decentralised Financial Instruments (DFI) for urban and territorial development plans together with local authorities and lenders.

EIB advisory services helped a number of local governments to prepare sustainable urban mobility plans. It supported the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development in the implementation of a project that will prepare the pipeline of investment in sustainable mobility across Poland and support the broader goals of de-carbonisation of the transport sector.

## INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

Launched by the EIB and the European Commission in 2015 to promote investments in EU countries, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the financial pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan), ended in 2020. As of 31 December 2020, approved financing under EFSI reached €4.2 billion (including €276 million in 2020) and is expected to mobilise €21.9 billion of total investments from public and private sources. This means that Poland ranks fifth among EU countries in terms of funds received.



## OVERALL EIB GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

### Overall EIB Group financing

Projects approved by the EIB Group amounted to

**€76.8bn**

### Green financing

**40%** of all financing signed by the EIB Group was related to **climate action and environmental sustainability** (and 41% in Poland)

## EIB Group financing in Poland

Projects signed by the EIB Group reached

**€5.2bn** representing  
**1%** of Poland's GDP

This included

**€4.6bn** in EIB loans  
**€660m** in EIF guarantees and equity investments

## Investment Plan for Europe in Poland

**82 projects** approved by the EIB Group since the plan's inception\*

amounting to **€4.2bn** ...  
... and expected to mobilise  
**€21.9bn** in total investment

### PRESS CONTACTS

**Andrea Morawski**  
Press Officer

+352 4379-83427

+352 691 284 349

[a.morawski@eib.org](mailto:a.morawski@eib.org)

**EIB Group Office in Poland**  
Plac Piłsudskiego 1  
PL-00-078 Warszawa  
Poland

+48 22 3100500

[warsaw@eib.org](mailto:warsaw@eib.org)

**Press Secretariat**

+352 4379-21000

+352 4379-61000

[press@eib.org](mailto:press@eib.org)

[www.eib.org/press](http://www.eib.org/press)

### GENERAL CONTACTS

**European Investment Bank**  
98-100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer  
L-2950 Luxembourg

**Information Desk**

+352 4379-22000

+352 4379-62000

[info@eib.org](mailto:info@eib.org)

[www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)

\* As of 31 December 2020.