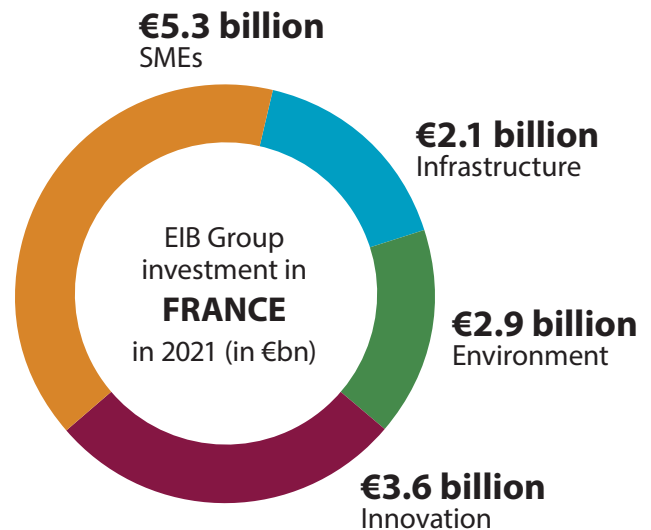


EIB Group activity IN FRANCE in 2021

- Record financing volume of €13.9 billion
- Two-thirds of EIB investment dedicated to climate action
- One-quarter of EIB Group financing devoted to innovation and very strong support for SMEs



2021 was another record year for the European Investment Bank Group (EIB Group) in France with almost €14 billion in financing provided for investment in the public and private sectors. This was made up of €9.2 billion from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and €4.7 billion from the European Investment Fund (EIF), which focuses on financing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). For the first time, France received more EIB Group financing than any other country last year.

Climate action, support for innovation and SME financing were once again the EU bank's main focal points in France in 2021. Thanks to the resources of the European Guarantee Fund set up to address the financing difficulties of companies affected by the health crisis, EIB bank loans and guarantees mobilised a total of €15.2 billion in investments and benefited tens of thousands of small businesses.





The EU climate bank

In 2021, the EIB devoted more than two-thirds of its lending in France to the fight against global warming. This resulted in investment of more than €6 billion in renewable energy, the energy efficiency of buildings and the development of sustainable mobility.

Highlights include the signing of major projects in industry to support the energy transition. Key examples are the finance provided for Safran's research and development in clean propulsion systems (€500 million) and loans to ArcelorMittal (€280 million) and cable manufacturer Nexans (€200 million). In renewable energy, the EIB participated in the second round of financing for a 450 MW offshore wind farm in Calvados, northern France (providing €350 million). The financing of innovative projects was at the heart of its climate action with, for example, a €30 million loan to SME Carbios, a circular economy specialist that has developed technology to fully recycle plastic waste. The EIB also invested €44 million in the Euralis Group for research into new climate change-resistant seed varieties and provided €50 million for the Avril Group's research into plant proteins and green chemicals.

As a partner of local authorities, the EIB mobilised €3.85 billion for more sustainable public facilities. The EIB financed the investment plan of Eau de Paris — France's largest municipal drinking water authority — with €135 million, including a component for biodiversity protection. It continued investing in public transport with the renewal of rail rolling stock in several regions such as Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Grand Est, Normandy and Hauts-de-France. It supported Banque des Territoires (part of the Caisse des Dépôts Group) in the thermal renovation of social housing, providing a total of €1 billion for the renovation of approximately 70 000 homes.

Increased support for all innovation

The amount spent on innovation reached €3.6 billion in 2021, representing one-quarter of EIB Group financing. These long-term investments support the development and competitiveness of future European champions and large corporations such as automotive equipment manufacturer Valeo, which received a €600 million loan for research and development in vehicle safety.



Last year, the EIB expanded its activities in the health and life sciences sectors by providing financing for many biotech and medtech companies, including Stilla Technologies, which is based in the Paris region. As a specialist in precision genetic analysis, the company has developed an innovative digital PCR test for COVID-19 that limits false negatives. The EIB also financed projects in gene therapies and several surgical robotics companies such as Robocath in vascular robotics, eCential Robotics in bone procedures and Quantum Surgical in liver cancer treatment.

It continued financing digital transition projects, such as with the Toulouse startup Alteia, which is developing an artificial intelligence platform for visual data, and the operator Bouygues Telecom in the deployment of its 4G and 5G networks with a loan of €350 million.

This action was supplemented by a €700 million contribution from the EIF, indirectly helping to support the development of high-potential startups and SMEs via investment in venture capital funds. The EIF carried out around 40 operations of this kind last year, recently assisting Back Market, the French leader in the resale of reconditioned electronics, via its investments in the Daphni and Eurazeo growth funds. It also invested via the Alven fund in the neobank Qonto, the largest French unicorn in the fintech sector.

Strong mobilisation to support SMEs and the economic recovery after the public health crisis

To address the investment financing difficulties linked to the coronavirus pandemic, the EIB Group quickly deployed a support and economic recovery plan for all EU Member States in 2021. Using resources from the €24.4 billion European Guarantee Fund, it was able to meet the needs of French businesses with loans, equity and quasi-equity investments and guarantee instruments, either directly or via banking and financial intermediaries. Since January 2021, five guarantee agreements totalling €1.7 billion have been signed with Bpifrance, enabling it to expand its business lending capacity. In total and including all activities, the EIB Group directly or indirectly supported almost 50 000 SMEs in France in 2021, helping to safeguard 423 000 jobs in the country.



Investments in innovation are closely linked to the fight against global warming

The EIB Group's investments in research, digital and human capital reached **€3.6 billion** in France in 2021.

Overall EIB Group achievements in 2021

Record year of financing

Projects financed in 2021 totalled

€95 billion

European Guarantee Fund

With €24.4 billion in resources, the fund mobilised financing of

€174.4 billion

Climate

In 2021, the fight against climate change featured in

43%

of the EIB's investments

Innovation

In 2021, the EIB allocated over

€20 billion

SMEs

Small and medium-sized enterprises received

€45 billion

Employment

More than

4.5 million jobs

safeguarded in

431 000 SMEs

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