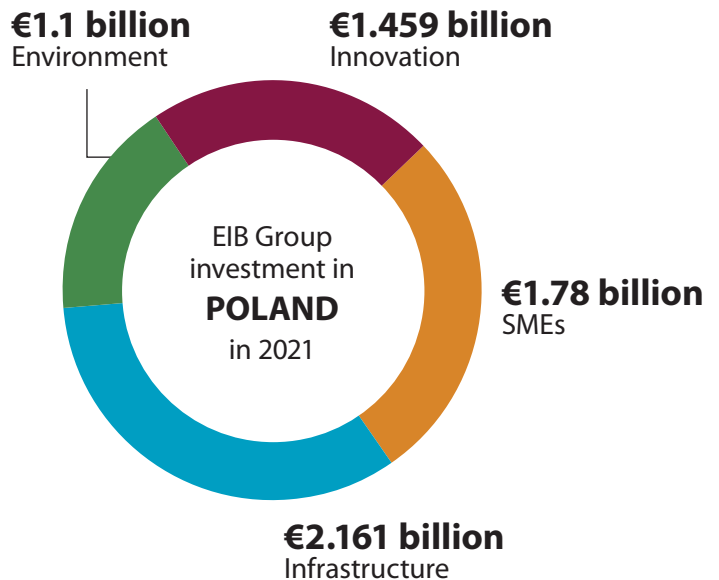


- Total EIB Group financing reached €6.5 billion, with significant investments in infrastructure, innovation and environment, and strong support for small and medium-sized businesses.
- Around 38% of the financing sustained infrastructure projects and local authorities, low-emission transport and wastewater management systems.
- A record 42% of EIB Group financing supported climate action and green transformation in Poland.



A year marked by digitalisation, urban agenda and green investments

With €6.5 billion of total financing, 2021 was another strong year for the European Investment Bank Group in Poland. Lending contributed to Poland's growth and response to the crisis. Loans by the European Investment Bank (EIB) amounted to €5.68 billion, while the European Investment Fund (EIF), the EIB's subsidiary for small business, provided €805.4 million in guarantees and equity investments.

Funding for a greener future continued in Poland throughout 2021. New social housing, public transport and renewable energy projects were signed, as well as projects covering digital infrastructure for disadvantaged municipalities. 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.



“Last year we managed to sign contracts for financing projects with a total value of €6.5 billion. This is a record achievement in the over 30-year history of the Bank's operations in Poland. It proves that the EIB Group is ready to provide financing to key sectors of the economy, while dealing with the crisis related to the coronavirus pandemic in a very short time. 2022 presents us with even greater challenges as we support countries struggling with the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Poland will certainly be the biggest beneficiary of this support.”

Teresa Czerwińska
EIB Vice-President



Financing a sustainable recovery

Support for small and medium enterprises

Small and medium-sized businesses received financing from the EIB Group of €1.78 billion, of which around €640 million was allocated specifically to easing the impact of COVID-19 on small firms. Around 65% of EIB Group financing for these companies came from the EIB in the form of loans, while around 35% came from the EIF in guarantees and equity investments.

After a first tranche of PLN 500 million (around €112 million) in 2020, additional financing of PLN 2 billion (about €440 million) was granted to the Polish Development Fund (PFR) to support its Financial Shield Programme.

Support for local enterprises continued with the development of long-standing relationships with local banks and other financial institutions such as PKO Bank Polski, Bank Pekao SA, Europejski Fundusz Leasingowy, BNP Paribas Bank Polska and Bank Ochrony Środowiska.

Through a joint EIB-EIF operation, the EIB Group signed an agreement with the Santander Bank Group to counter the pandemic's effects. A securitisation transaction for approximately PLN 2 billion was signed with Santander Leasing SA to help Santander Bank Polska Group to expand its financing for small and medium-sized businesses in Poland through capital relief and loss protection. This is the first synthetic securitisation transaction backed by the **European Guarantee Fund**, an instrument set up by the EIB Group together with EU Member States to fight the economic consequences of the pandemic.

The EIF's involvement in the Polish economy amounted to €805.4 million, up from approximately €660.4 million in 2020. **Financing for the SME sector also contributed to climate action.** Bank Ochrony Środowiska received a €75 million EIB loan, of which at least 50% was earmarked for projects focusing on environmental protection.

European Investment Bank
Amounts made available for operations in Poland
€5.68 billion





Green and energy transition

For the second year in a row, EIB loans **supporting the green transformation** of the Polish economy reached 42% of the total, up from 41% in 2020. A key element of the changes supporting climate action is **the transition to renewable energy sources**.

EIB financing sustained the decarbonisation plans of the largest Polish energy companies. For example, Tauron and Energa will invest in the modernisation of the distribution network to facilitate the connection of new customers (including micro installations). Tauron received a PLN 2.8 billion (about €624 million) loan — the largest corporate financing transaction in Poland in the Bank's history (for purposes other than the development of transport infrastructure). Investments in the distribution network are essential for the safe transformation of the Polish energy sector and are necessary to continue the decarbonisation process and achieve climate neutrality.

EIB financing of €180 million also supported PKN Orlen in the field of renewable energy and biorefinery projects, and in the area of research and development.

Overall, the EIB Group spent €1.1 billion on sustainable energy and natural resources projects in Poland in 2021.







Digital transition and innovation

The financing of projects related to innovation, digitalisation and the development of human capital increased to €1.459 billion, up from €1.225 billion in 2020. The EIB was particularly involved in projects to improve internet connections throughout the country.

In a flagship transaction, the EIB granted a loan of up to PLN 325 million (around €73 million) to Nexera to develop high-speed internet connections in lower population density areas in Poland. It will bring fibre-to-the-home infrastructure to five provinces (Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Mazowieckie, Łódzkie and Świętokrzyskie), helping to better connect around 530 000 households and 1 400 schools by 2023. The project has received the backing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

Furthermore, the telecommunication company Światłowód Inwestycje received a PLN 600 million loan (about €130 million) from the EIB. The company's network is expected to reach 2.4 million households by the end of 2025.

The European Investment Bank and the Ministry of Finance also concluded two loan agreements to finance grants for basic research awarded by the National Science Centre (€365 million) and support activities in the area of research, development and innovation in 70 research institutes associated with the Polish Academy of Sciences throughout the country (€177 million).







Sustainable development of cities and regions

The EIB has continued to finance the **sustainable development and revitalisation plans of Polish cities and regions**. In 2021, the EIB Group allocated €2.161 billion (approximately 38% of total financing in Poland) to sustain infrastructure projects and local authorities. Kraków, Wrocław, Szczecin and Częstochowa received financing to invest in the development of better urban infrastructure, including wastewater management systems, neighbourhood revitalisation, green areas and low-emission urban transport. New trams will enter service on the transport networks of Wrocław and Upper Silesia, and electric buses will be introduced in Częstochowa.

After a pilot project with Ostrów Wielkopolski in 2020, the EIB launched a PLN 700 million (about €157 million) joint scheme with Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) to support Polish cities with a population below 100 000. More projects are expected this year. A separate PLN 600 million (about €133 million) loan to BGK aims to finance social and affordable housing projects throughout Poland.

The EIB also supported the modernisation of transport infrastructure, with particular emphasis on environmental aspects. A €240 million EIB loan was disbursed to the National Road Fund managed by BGK in cooperation with the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways. The loan will finance a new bypass, part of the S6 road, which will facilitate traffic around three Polish Baltic cities known as the Tricity — Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot (750 000 inhabitants). The S6 road will run parallel to the Baltic coast. Part of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T), it connects northern Poland with the multimodal TEN-T Baltic-Adriatic corridor.

The railway sector in Poland received a boost thanks to a significant EIB loan to PKP Intercity, the largest Polish long-distance rail operator. The EIB and PKP Intercity signed a loan agreement for PLN 2 billion, which will help the company finance a strategic programme of rolling stock modernisation to increase the frequency, safety and attractiveness of long-distance train journeys throughout the country, as well as improving accessibility for people with reduced mobility.



European Investment Fund

Amounts made available for operations in Poland

€805.4 million



Overall EIB group achievements in 2021

Worldwide

Record year of financing

Projects approved by the EIB Group amounted to

€95 billion

both inside and beyond the European Union

€45 billion

in EIB Group financing

to support small and medium firms

Climate action worldwide

51%

of all EIB projects in 2021 were green

In Poland

Polish projects supported

by the EIB Group amounted to

€6.5 billion

representing 1.16% of Poland's gross domestic product

€1.78 billion

in EIB Group financing

for Polish small and medium firms

Climate action in Poland

42%

of all EIB Group projects were green

PRESS CONTACTS

Andrea Morawski

+352 4379-83427

+352 691 284 349

a.morawski@eib.org

Katarzyna Karpiuk

+48 22 3100522

+48 502 355 687

k.karpiuk@ext.eib.org

EIB Group Office in Poland

Plac Piłsudskiego 1

PL-00-078 Warszawa

+48-22 3100500

warsaw@eib.org

Press Secretariat

+352 4379-21000

+352 4379-61000

press@eib.org

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 – www.eib.org