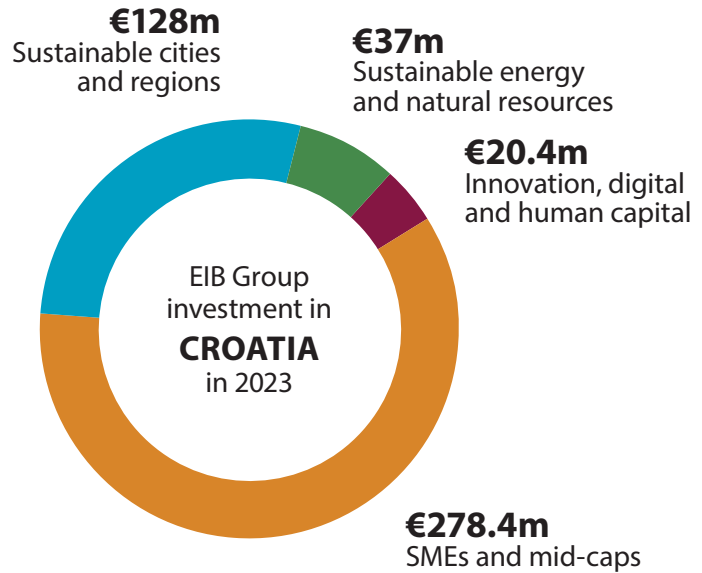


EIB Group activity in **CROATIA** in 2023

- A total of €464 million in new financing was signed for projects supporting economic and social cohesion in Croatia.
- In 2023, the EIB Group supported 1 052 SMEs and mid-caps, sustaining more than 48 500 jobs.
- The EIB Group allocated €102 million for climate investments, driving the country's green transition.



The European Investment Bank Group, comprising the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF), supported Croatia's economy with €464 million in new loans and guarantee commitments in 2023. Last year, the EIB's engagement in the country included financing and advisory for urban development, sustainable infrastructure, energy and energy efficiency and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps. All of the financing signed across these sectors supported economic and social cohesion within the country, mobilising about €1.15 billion in investment.





Unlocking new financing for businesses

Underpinning productivity and competitiveness and facilitating climate action investments

In 2023, the EIB joined forces with the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR) to make half a billion euros available to SMEs, mid-caps and public sector entities and support their sustainable development. From the first tranche of €200 million that was signed, about 20% is earmarked for green projects in sectors such as energy efficiency and clean energy production, sustainable transport and environmental protection. The agreement will help HBOR to absorb EU grants and structural funds, and is expected to mobilise up to €1 billion of investment in the Croatian economy.

Another €300 million in new loans will be available to mid-caps and public sector entities in Croatia following a guarantee agreement of €150 million between the EIB and Zagrebačka banka (ZABA). About a fifth of the total value of the lending portfolio that ZABA will create will be for investments in sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency. An EIF agreement was signed with UniCredit Group for two guarantees worth around €370 million across seven EU countries. Of this amount, about €64 million will go to small businesses in Croatia to support investments by SMEs in the twin green and digital transitions, and to boost cultural, educational and social sectors.

Annual EIB volume

Projects signed by the European Investment Bank amounted to

€399 million



Supporting the green and digital transition

The EIB signed a €49 million loan with the city of Split to support its 2023-2027 multi-sector investment programme that will improve the quality of public services in Croatia's second largest city. This is the EIB's first flagship municipal operation in Croatia, with this transaction granting the first tranche under a €150 million framework loan agreement with the city of Split. It will foster sustainable urban renewal and development through investments in schools, kindergartens, urban mobility improvements and upgrades to public open spaces and green areas. It will also back investments in intelligent transport solutions to enhance access to sustainable public transport and cycling.

In 2023, the EIB signed a series of advisory agreements with Croatian partners to boost the country's green and digital transformation. EIB Advisory, backed by the InvestEU Advisory Hub, is supporting the motorway operator Hrvatske Autoceste (HAC) with the introduction of a new nationwide electronic toll collection system and greening measures for the motorway network managed by HAC.

The city of Zagreb will benefit from the EIB's European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility and will receive technical assistance to improve the energy efficiency of 50 public buildings.

The EIB has provided technical and advisory support to the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure under the EU Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) programme for the preparation of railway projects. It will continue to offer its expertise and assistance to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.



European Investment Fund

Amount committed in support of economic and social cohesion

€65 million



Overall EIB Group achievements in 2023

EIB Group activity
€87.85 billion

EIB financing
€75.14 billion

SMEs and mid-caps
€19.96 billion

**Sustainable energy and
natural resources**
€26.80 billion

Sustainable cities and regions
€21.33 billion

**Innovation, digital and
human capital**
€19.76 billion

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