

Sustainable transport OVERVIEW

2023

Transport is an essential component of our daily lives. It forms the backbone of the modern economy, facilitating personal mobility and allowing goods, capital and services to be exchanged between countries.

Good public transport brings people closer together and plays an important role in society — especially when it comes to promoting social and gender equality. Every day, it is used by students and workers as an affordable, easy means of reaching their destinations.

Women are the main users of public transport in many cities around the world, and efficient transport networks allow them to make the most of economic opportunities while juggling family commitments.

Mobility is also one of the pillars of the [Cohesion Orientation 2021-2027](#), the plan of the European Investment Bank (EIB) to expand and modernise its investments in regions covered by EU cohesion policy.

At the same time, transport is one of the economic sectors with the highest greenhouse gas emissions and is the main cause of air pollution in cities. It accounts for [around 28% of total emissions in the European Union and 37% worldwide](#).

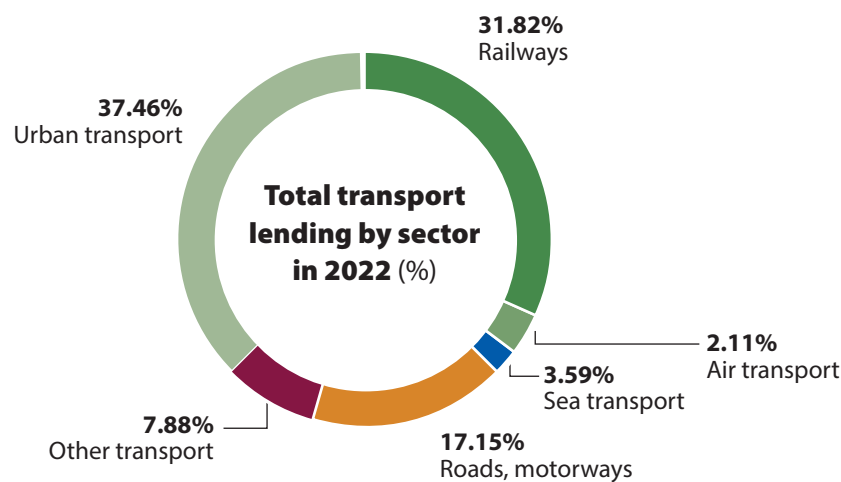
With the European Green Deal and its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, EU governments and businesses are working hard to find and deliver innovative solutions to make mobility greener and more sustainable.



FACTS AND FIGURES

The EIB has been financing mobility since 1958. Supporting the development of transport networks across Europe has helped EU economies to thrive and our societies to connect. Today the EIB Group, made up of the Bank and the European Investment Fund, is doing all that it can to make transport greener, safer and universally accessible .

The EIB is historically one of the biggest transport lenders. In the period 2012-2022, it provided an average of **€11 billion per year** for green and innovative solutions to make an impact on the mobility sector, financing climate-friendly projects all over the world. The shift to sustainable transport is evident: Around 32% of total transport lending in 2022 went to railway projects, and around 37% to urban mobility.



In 2022, passengers used EIB-financed public transport more than **570 million times**. But more needs to be done to adapt mobility to meet future climate ambitions.

Last year, the Bank revised its [Transport Lending Policy](#) and set priorities for a safer, more accessible, greener and more efficient mobility system, in line with the [Climate Bank Roadmap](#). The policy focuses on the development of electric mobility, equal access, a hydrogen-based economy and the use of alternative fuels for road vehicles. It is also in line with the European Commission's [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#), and has been adapted to the EU sustainable finance taxonomy.

The European Union is expected to help lead the fight against climate change and the way to achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement. Implementing climate action initiatives is key to reaching these goals.

Greener alternatives for vehicles and fuels are needed. Joint European initiatives like InvestEU, Future Mobility and InnovFin are giving entrepreneurs what they need to develop their ideas and compete on the market stage.

The EIB also invests in integrated digital services that boost the efficiency of mobility and logistics all along the service chain, and that make roads and networks safer. Examples of the Bank's support in this area include funding the upgrade of [Wallonia's smart lighting systems for its motorways](#) and financing research and development for [self-driving vehicles](#).

The EIB offers technical assistance and advisory support to help smaller transport companies secure crucial financing.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Find out more about our transport projects [in our stories](#) and read about our approach and priorities in financing transport projects.

New electric railways in Denmark

Denmark is renewing its trains. The EIB has financed Danish State Railways with a €500 million loan to buy 100 new electric trains that will replace diesel-powered trains and support future growth in sustainable passenger traffic.

[More information online](#)

Helping communities in Madagascar to connect

The EIB has provided €114.7 million in loans and grants to rehabilitate major trunk roads in Madagascar. The project aims to modernise Madagascar's road network and improve connectivity within the region. The initiative will facilitate mobility and trade, benefiting local populations, businesses and vulnerable communities.

[More information online](#)





A new metro line in Athens

A new metro line in Greece's capital will improve the lives of commuters and cut carbon emissions. The new Line 4 will be driverless, add 35 stations and include five separate sections. The EIB has signed a €580 million financing agreement for the construction of Section A of the line, with 15 new stations between Alsos Veikou and Goudi.

[More information online](#)

Sustainable mobility and urban regeneration in Florence

The Italian city of Florence has announced a plan to improve its climate resilience and reduce emissions. The EIB has provided a €200 million framework loan to Florence to support urban regeneration, energy efficiency in public buildings, sustainable mobility and digital infrastructure.

[More information online](#)

Berlin area says goodbye to diesel trains

A zero-carbon future is on the horizon for regional trains between Berlin and the surrounding Brandenburg area. The EIB has financed new, battery-powered rolling stock for regional train routes. The investment loan of up to €95 million is furthering the transition towards sustainable transport.

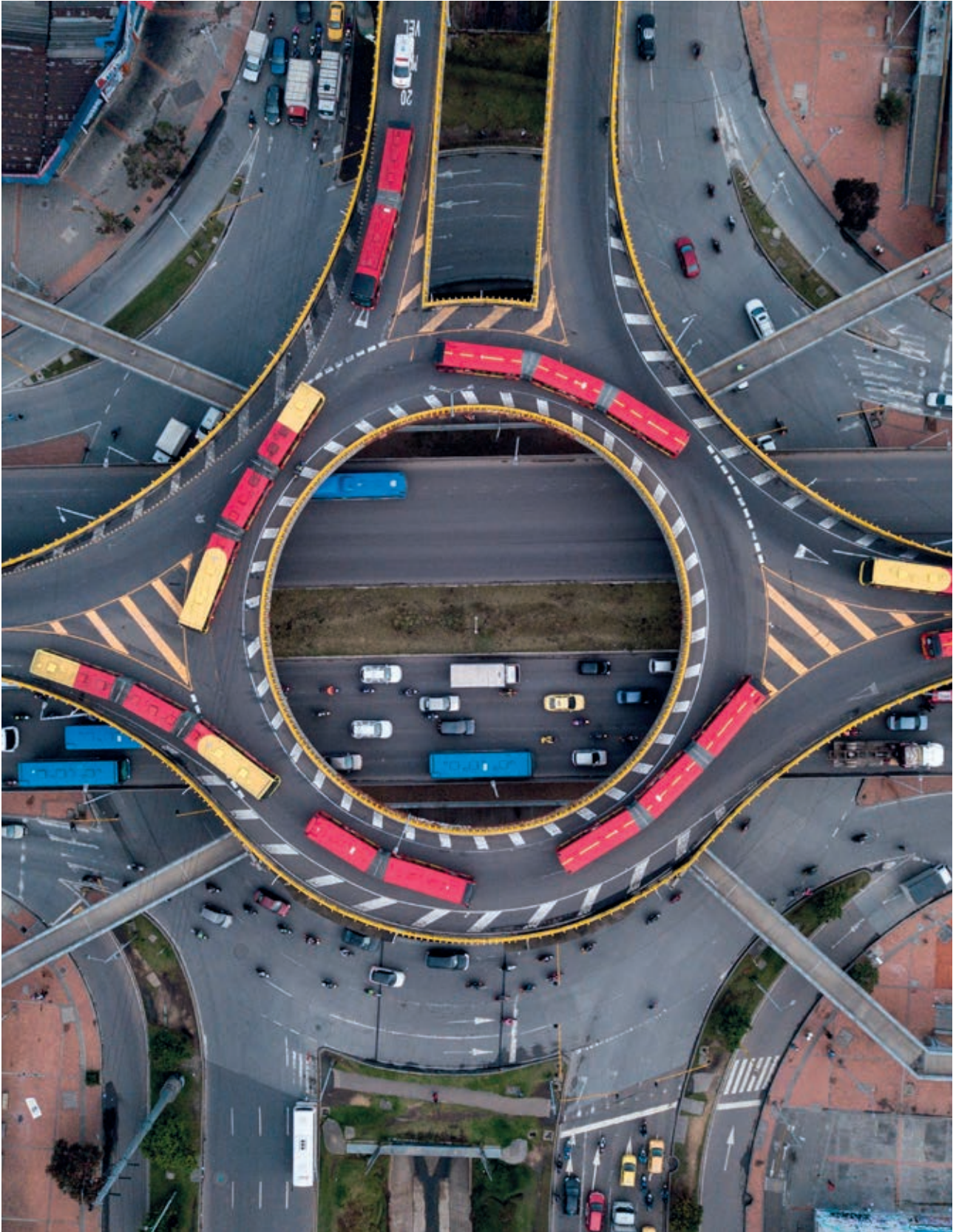
[More information online](#)

Hydrogen-based logistics in France

The French region of Occitanie adopted the Green Hydrogen Plan in 2019, providing €150 million to accelerate the large scale roll-out of hydrogen-based solutions across the region. The EIB has granted a €40 million loan for Corridor H2, a project to install hydrogen distribution stations from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, including on secondary roads. Once complete, it is expected to reduce the use of diesel by 2.6 million tonnes every year.

[More information online](#)







RESOURCES

BLOGS

- [Ancient monuments, modern metro](#)
- [Transport solutions for women](#)
- [Development solutions: All aboard](#)
- [New Athens metro cuts emissions](#)
- [Road projects to combat climate events in Madagascar](#)
- [Laos rural roads upgrade boosts economy, health, schools](#)
- [Poste Italiane cuts emissions with green fleet for postal workers](#)
- [Investing to bridge the urban infrastructure gender gap](#)
- [Sustainable transport investment builds greener future with economic growth](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [The EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#)
- [Transport Lending Policy 2022: The Way Forward](#)

VIDEOS AND PODCASTS

- [EIB: Building 21st century sustainable transport](#)
- [Around the world on a metro with the EIB \(in Quito, Athens, Rabat, Lucknow and Rotterdam\)](#)
- [The EIB is backing green transport in Sarajevo](#)
- [On the move in Laos: Mee's story](#)
- [The EIB's Green Rail Investment Platform](#)
- [Supporting sustainable transport in India](#)
- [The EIB supports the first electric Bus Rapid Transit project in West Africa](#)
- [Climate solutions: Transport solutions for a cleaner world](#)
- [Climate solutions: Blade Runner saves the climate](#)
- [Climate solutions: How to turn a rail system green](#)
- [Climate solutions: Car conundrum](#)

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This overview, with links to stories, brochures and videos, is available at:

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