

THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK IN

TUNISIA



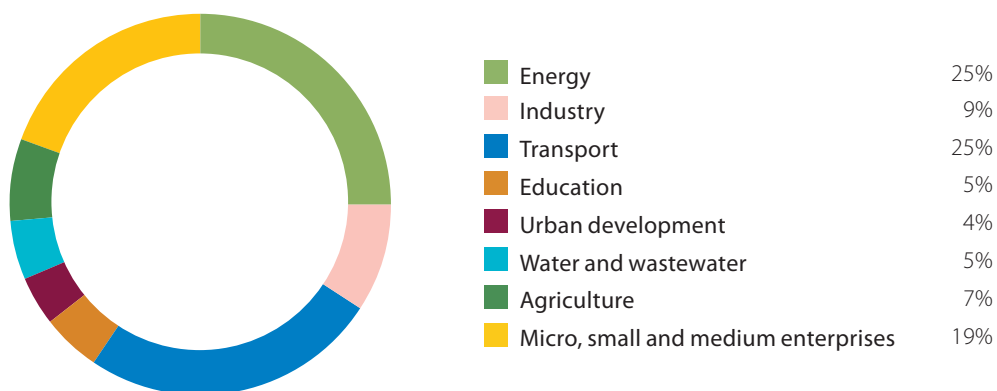
European Investment Bank | Global



A Tunisian family business is expanding and creating jobs. 3 million residents in vulnerable neighbourhoods have better houses, roads and pavements. People living along the coast have better water and wastewater services.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has improved millions of lives across Tunisia since 1979. We have invested in better water and waste services, smoother roads and more reliable electricity. We have modernised schools and helped small companies grow.

BREAKDOWN OF LOANS BY SECTOR 2014-2023 (IN €)



A RELIABLE PARTNER

In Tunisia, the EIB Group provides loans and guarantees for public or private projects under an EU mandate. Our engineers and economists have a wealth of experience in designing, planning and developing successful projects.

With its AAA rating, the EIB raises funds on the markets on the most favourable conditions and offers attractive interest rates and good loan terms.

The Bank **finances up to 50% of project costs**. It also provides technical assistance and investment grants through partnerships with the European Union and other donors.

The EIB offers its technical expertise to promoters to help them prepare and implement their projects. Our experts can also help promoters to develop and build new skills.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are vital for economic growth, job creation and innovation in Tunisia, yet they often struggle to get loans. The EIB Group makes it easier for these businesses to get loans and other assistance. We lend to Tunisian public and private banks, which in turn offer smaller loans to entrepreneurs with lower collateral requirements, longer maturities and good interest rates. We also invest in private equity funds, which help Tunisian companies to grow.



169 projects
financed
since 1979
€7 billion
invested

Our Tunis office has strengthened our ties with the Tunisian government and private sector. Our local presence also enables us to provide hands-on project assistance and manage an increased volume of initiatives.



SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

CURBING THE BRAIN DRAIN

When Feten got her engineering degree, she thought she would have to leave Tunisia to get a job in her field. After all, most young engineering graduates were going abroad in search of better opportunities and higher salaries. Instead, Feten, 31, was hired by OneTech, a Tunisian company that designs components, develops software and manufactures printed circuit boards, plastic parts, connectors and other products.

The EIB has provided €30 million in financing to the OneTech Group to support its investments in research, development and innovation. In just a few years, these investments have helped OneTech to double its turnover, strengthen its position on the international market and create nearly 1 300 jobs, 38% of which went to women.

STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

To revive Tunisia's economy, the EIB has provided a €170 million loan to support SMEs and mid-caps in the country. This project aims to stimulate economic growth, create sustainable jobs and strengthen the resilience of local businesses.

There is also a big focus on social inclusion. At least 30% of the funds will go to companies promoting equal opportunities, especially those run by women or located in less developed regions of the country.

INCLUSION

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

With a degree in international business under her belt, Raja Fehli was determined to find a job in the Sidi Bouzid governorate. The 28-year-old wanted to set up her own business in ironwork — not an easy feat in a male-dominated sector with few opportunities. So she contacted Enda Tamweel to get a loan and training on how to start a business.

A leading Tunisian microfinance institution, Enda Tamweel supports microentrepreneurs, in particular women, young people and the most vulnerable people living in disadvantaged rural areas. **Enda Tamweel is currently helping 234 000 female entrepreneurs, who make up 60% of its customers.**

Under the Economic Resilience Initiative, the EIB has granted Enda Tamweel a €29.5 million loan in Tunisian dinars. This will help support more than 26 000 companies and entrepreneurs.



The Economic Resilience Initiative supports financial inclusion and entrepreneurship in Tunisia and across the Southern Neighbourhood countries and the Western Balkans. The programme brings together EIB loans and grants from donors. The initiative is part of the European Union's plan to find solutions to migration and the forced displacement of people.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

A total of €153 million in EIB financing is helping to rehabilitate and integrate more than 1 300 historical city centres, benefiting 3 million people across the country.

In cooperation with Tunisia's Urban Rehabilitation and Renewal Agency and other European partners, this project aims to upgrade, rehabilitate and expand urban infrastructure. This includes water and wastewater networks, roads, public green spaces, recreational and cultural facilities and premises for local economic activities.



AGRICULTURE

GROWING SUPPORT FOR FOOD SECURITY

Tunisia relies heavily on cereal imports, even in years when the domestic harvest is good. An estimated 4.7 million tonnes of cereals will need to be imported for the 2023-2024 marketing year, which is about 30% more than the average import requirements of the previous year.

The EIB is helping Tunisia to strengthen food security in response to climate change and the global wheat crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In 2023, the EIB helped the Tunisian Cereals Office buy common wheat on the international markets. It is also helping the office to upgrade grain storage and transport infrastructure.



ENERGY

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

One of the EIB's priorities is to strengthen energy efficiency and independence. For many years, we have helped Tunisia to improve the security of supply of electricity and to become more energy independent.

For example, at the end of 2022 the EIB granted a €65 million loan to the Tunisian Electricity and Gas Company (STEG). These funds will enable it to rehabilitate electricity transmission and distribution networks and connect new electricity production units to the grid. A new loan was granted in 2023 to co-finance STEG's contribution to the ELMED submarine cable between Tunisia and Italy.



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely in the Middle East, showing a dense urban area with many white buildings. The city is situated along a coastline with several small bays and a large, irregularly shaped body of water in the background. The sky is clear and blue. A large white circular callout is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text in blue and yellow.

60 000 more people
connected to the domestic
wastewater treatment system
1.2 million residents with
improved service

CLIMATE

PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

The Mediterranean Sea is rich in biodiversity. It is home to between 7% and 8% of known marine species. This biodiversity is being threatened by pollution along the Tunisian coast. 80% of this pollution comes from industrial emissions and urban waste and wastewater.

Wastewater treatment plants are old and saturated. Several industries discharge their waste into collectors in domestic networks without proper treatment. A programme to clean up pollution called Depolmed is being financed by the EIB, the European Union and the Agence française de développement. **It is helping to preserve the quality of water along the Tunisian coast and improve wastewater treatment services.**

The first phase of this project covers the rehabilitation of four coastal treatment plants in Sud Méliane, Sousse Nord, Jedaida and Kelibia, and the renovation of many treatment networks and plants. Depolmed is also helping governments to better manage wastewater treatment services.

Depolmed is reducing water pollution and protecting the Mediterranean marine environment and sensitive ecological areas in the wetlands. It is also improving biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions.



LAKE BIZERTE CLEAN-UP

Around 60 km north of Tunis, Lake Bizerte is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via a 7 km canal. After decades of urban and industrial pollution, the lake will soon have fresher waters again thanks to an integrated clean-up project.

The project is rehabilitating the environment and restoring the air and water quality of Lake Bizerte. Works will expand and rehabilitate the sewerage network, bringing wastewater collection and treatment up to Tunisian standards. This includes the remediation of landfills, the securing of storage areas and the creation of treatment plants and transfer centres in rural areas.

This project received a €40 million EIB loan and a €15 million grant from the EU-backed Neighbourhood Investment Facility.

A GUARANTEED DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Greater Tunis is improving its drinking water supply infrastructure with a €38 million loan from the EIB signed in 2020. Covering Tunis and the Ben Arous, La Manouba and Ariana governorates, the project aims to ensure a reliable supply of water until 2040.

The focus is on upgrading existing infrastructure and adding new storage and treatment capacity in order to meet the 3% annual increase in water demand.



400 000 people
in Bizerte and the surrounding
rural areas will have a better
quality of life

EDUCATION

A BOOST FOR TUNISIAN SCHOOLS

The EIB sees education as a pillar of economic growth and social integration. It is a foundation for development, strengthening the resilience of communities and helping to fight inequality.

Since 2017, we have been supporting Tunisia by financing a school modernisation programme to supply pupils and teachers with proper equipment and to improve the learning environment and educational facilities throughout the country.

Co-financed by the German development bank KfW, this project received a €70 million loan from the EIB and a €20 million grant from the EU-backed Neighbourhood Investment Facility.

As part of the ongoing programme, a new loan of €40 million, with €4 million from the European Union, will be used to build 80 modern primary schools and to improve learning conditions for 14 500 pupils. It will also finance school transport and the digital transformation of schools.



CULTURE

THE POWER OF MUSIC

The EIB Institute is a supporter of the Tunisia88 project, which seeks to introduce the practice of music in Tunisian secondary schools through the creation of music clubs led by young people for their peers. The project offers young Tunisians an opportunity for personal fulfilment and artistic expression that will broaden their horizons.

Tunisia88 has created 590 music clubs, taken in more than 33 000 pupils and organised nearly 90 concerts in Tunisia and abroad.

The EIB Institute is a catalyst for social, cultural and educational initiatives.





THE EIB GROUP CONSISTS OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) AND THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND (EIF).

The EIB is one of the world's largest multilateral borrowers and lenders. Headquartered in Luxembourg, the Bank has local and regional offices across Europe and around the world.

The EIF supports small businesses in Europe and in a number of countries outside Europe by improving their access to finance. It designs and deploys venture and growth capital, guarantee and microfinance instruments to promote innovation and employment.

EIB Global is the EIB's international development arm. It finances climate action, innovation and sustainability around the world.



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