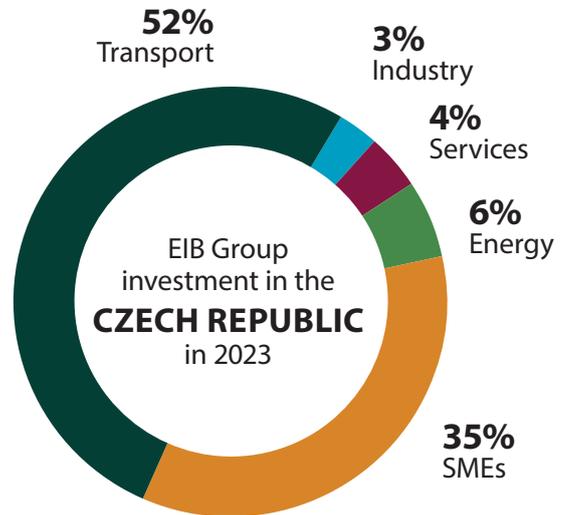


In 2023, the EIB Group — the European Investment Bank (EIB) and its subsidiary, the European Investment Fund (EIF) — supported projects in the Czech Republic with

€1.88 billion

- 75% of the financing committed is climate relevant.
- More than three-quarters of the funding benefits economically weaker regions.
- Major support for small and medium-sized companies, energy and transport.
- Biggest EIB loan to date for railway modernisation.



In 2023, the European Investment Bank Group again recorded a high level of activity in the Czech Republic and beyond. Overall, the Group signed close to **€88 billion** in new financing contracts for high-impact projects in support of EU policy priorities, including climate action, environmental sustainability, innovation and cohesion. In all, some **€49 billion** went to financing green projects, more than 55% of the total Group volume.

Across the Czech Republic, the EIB Group contributed to projects that improve people's daily lives. From modernising sections of railway all over the country to backing green energy for households and businesses, and providing finance for startups and companies with up to 3 000 employees, the EIB Group fulfilled its mission of supporting sustainable development in the Czech Republic. In total, financing in the country amounted to **€1.88 billion**, of which **€188 million** was provided through the EIF. Over more than three decades, the cumulative EIB Group support has reached €29.4 billion. Three-quarters of the financing committed last year was climate relevant and 77% supported economically weaker regions to raise their living standards.



Almost €1 billion for faster and safer trains

The **single biggest EIB loan in the Czech Republic** in 2023 and to date will boost the quality and capacity of rail infrastructure, especially on the European Union's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). €985 million in long-term financing will help Správa železnic, státní organizace (SZ), the Czech railway administrator, to modernise some 40 sections of railway throughout the country. The works will increase the maximum speed on certain stretches, shortening journey times. They will also make level crossings safer and improve the cybersecurity of SZ's computer systems. In addition, the investment includes works in railway stations and railway buildings to improve their accessibility for people with reduced mobility and people travelling with children. Ultimately, this comprehensive rail infrastructure upgrade aims to encourage a shift towards rail transport, reducing road congestion and pollution.



More green energy for households and businesses

The Czech Republic massively benefited from EIB support for energy projects last year. This mirrors the general effort of the EIB Group to back energy security and sustainability, including by contributing to the European Commission's [REPowerEU](#) initiative. Four EIB projects in the country were energy related. For example, the city of Brno borrowed €75 million to upgrade its heat generation and distribution system. The loan will also enable the construction of a heat and power plant fuelled by woodchips. Three loans to logistics property developers and managers with real estate in various EU countries will facilitate the roll-out of solar panels on industrial buildings: CTP received €200 million, VGP Renewable Energy NV signed €150 million, and P3 secured €150 million, of which €15 million is specifically earmarked for photovoltaic installations on rooftops. These projects will help the country to generate and use its energy more efficiently and flexibly.

Financing startups and smaller companies

Continued EIB support for the Czech banking sector

With loans of €300 million for Česká spořitelna and €160 million for SG Equipment Finance Czech Republic, respectively, the EIB aims to back small and mid-sized companies with a maximum of 3 000 employees. These businesses often face challenges in accessing sufficient funding for their development and expansion, especially in regions with less economic activity. A large part of the financing unlocked by the EIB is expected to benefit those regions, also known as cohesion areas. The goal is to increase economic opportunities and to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable economy.

European Investment Bank

€1.69 billion

Financing in 2023



EIF invests €188 million in digital technologies and innovation-based competitiveness

Intermediated financial institutions in the Czech Republic also received financing from the European Investment Fund. In 2023, the EIF provided a total of €188 million in equity, inclusive finance and guarantees. This funding is expected to unlock €484 million for final beneficiaries.

Last year saw the first EIF-backed impact investment in the Czech Republic. Impact investments are specifically intended to generate positive social and environmental impacts, while also ensuring a financial return. With the support of the European Commission's InvestEU programme, the EIF acted as the lead investor in Tilia Impact II, a Czech seed fund that aims to finance climate, education and healthcare solutions. The fund's vision is to empower approximately 25 mission-driven entrepreneurs, with approximately half of them based in the Czech Republic and the rest scattered across other Eastern European countries.

Some 130 research and innovation-intensive businesses in the Czech Republic and Slovakia will have access to €25 million in financing thanks to an EIF portfolio guarantee agreement for SG Equipment Finance. The agreement comes in addition to the above-mentioned EIB loan and will help the beneficiaries adopt digital technologies and transform their operations.

Moreover, the EIF has been entrusted by the Czech Republic to manage a €55 million fund backed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility. This fund's primary objective is to support startups and university spin-offs focused on the development of digital technologies. The fund plans to invest in three distinct venture capital funds, each specialising in a specific area, ranging from blockchain to artificial intelligence. This initiative is expected to contribute to the digital transformation of the national economy and foster the growth of the Czech venture capital market.

Advisory Services to attract additional EU funds

In 2023, [EIB Advisory Services](#) continued supporting the government and the public and private sectors in the Czech Republic. They took on 44 new assignments benefiting the country and completed five, with 63 active assignments currently ongoing. The services provided assistance to entities in the Czech Republic involved in projects related to climate and environment, energy efficiency, infrastructure, sustainable urban development, and the transition of coal regions.

The focus of the [Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions \(JASPERS\)](#) initiative in the Czech Republic is on the development of a project pipeline, mainly in the transport sector. This includes concepts for the Czech high-speed rail network, as well as the development of Prague's rail hub. JASPERS experts are also providing advice on improving cycling infrastructure in the city of Brno, as part of the city's urban development plan.

The [European Local Energy Assistance \(ELENA\)](#) initiative is currently backing four projects in the country that aim to prepare energy efficiency investments for both public and privately owned buildings. These projects have received €9.4 million in ELENA grants, with the goal of implementing energy efficiency measures worth €267 million. Furthermore, a new ELENA project, currently awaiting signature, aims to support an additional €66 million for energy efficiency improvements in small and medium-sized companies, as well as in the public sector. Once this project is signed, the total amount of ELENA grants committed in the Czech Republic will reach €11.8 million, supporting investments worth approximately €334 million.

The EIF committed
€188 million
in guarantees, equity and fund participations



Overall EIB Group achievements in 2023

Support for relevant projects
signed by the EIB Group totalled
€87.85 billion

With €49 billion for climate action
55.8%
of all EIB Group projects in 2023 were green

REPowerEU projects made up
€21.38 billion
of all EIB Group projects financed in 2023

Since its foundation in 1994
the European Investment Fund has supported
295 000 jobs
in the Czech Republic alone

| European Investment Bank | In € million | European Investment Fund | In € million |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Atlas Copco RDI | 19.0 | Tilia Impact Ventures Fund II | 18.8 |
| Brno district heating and biomass | 75.0 | Raiffeisenbank a.s. | 21 |
| CSAS loan for SMEs and Midcaps | 200.0 | UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia a.s. | 65 |
| SGEF CZ loan for SMEs-Midcaps | 160.0 | UniCredit Leasing CZ, a.s. | 15 |
| CTP rooftop solar PV | 76.0 | SG Equipment Finance Czech Republic s.r.o. | 15 |
| Czech rail TEN-T and safety | 984.5 | Komerční Banka a.s. | 35 |
| ABB RDI sustainable electrification | 28.0 | Ceskoslovenská obchodní banka, a.s. | 1.7 |
| IVECO Group electric vehicles and digitalisation | 16.3 | Komerční Banka a.s. | 16.5 |
| VGP PV | 13.5 | | |
| CSAS loan for SMEs and Midcaps | 100.0 | | |
| P3 rooftop solar PV | 15.0 | | |
| TOTAL | 1 687.3 | European Investment Fund | 188 |

PRESS CONTACTS

Antonie Kerwien
+352 621 289 790
a.kerwien@eib.org

EIB Group Office in Prague
Klimentská 46 110 02 Praha 1
Czech Republic
+420 222191179
prague@eib.org

Press Secretariat
+352 4379-1
press@eib.org
www.eib.org/press

GENERAL CONTACTS

European Investment Bank
98-100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg

Information Desk
+352 4379-1
info@eib.org – www.eib.org