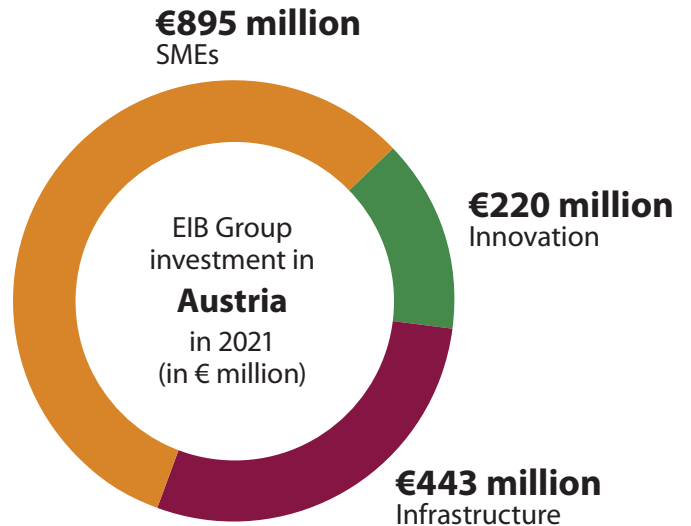


# EIB Group activity in **AUSTRIA** 2021

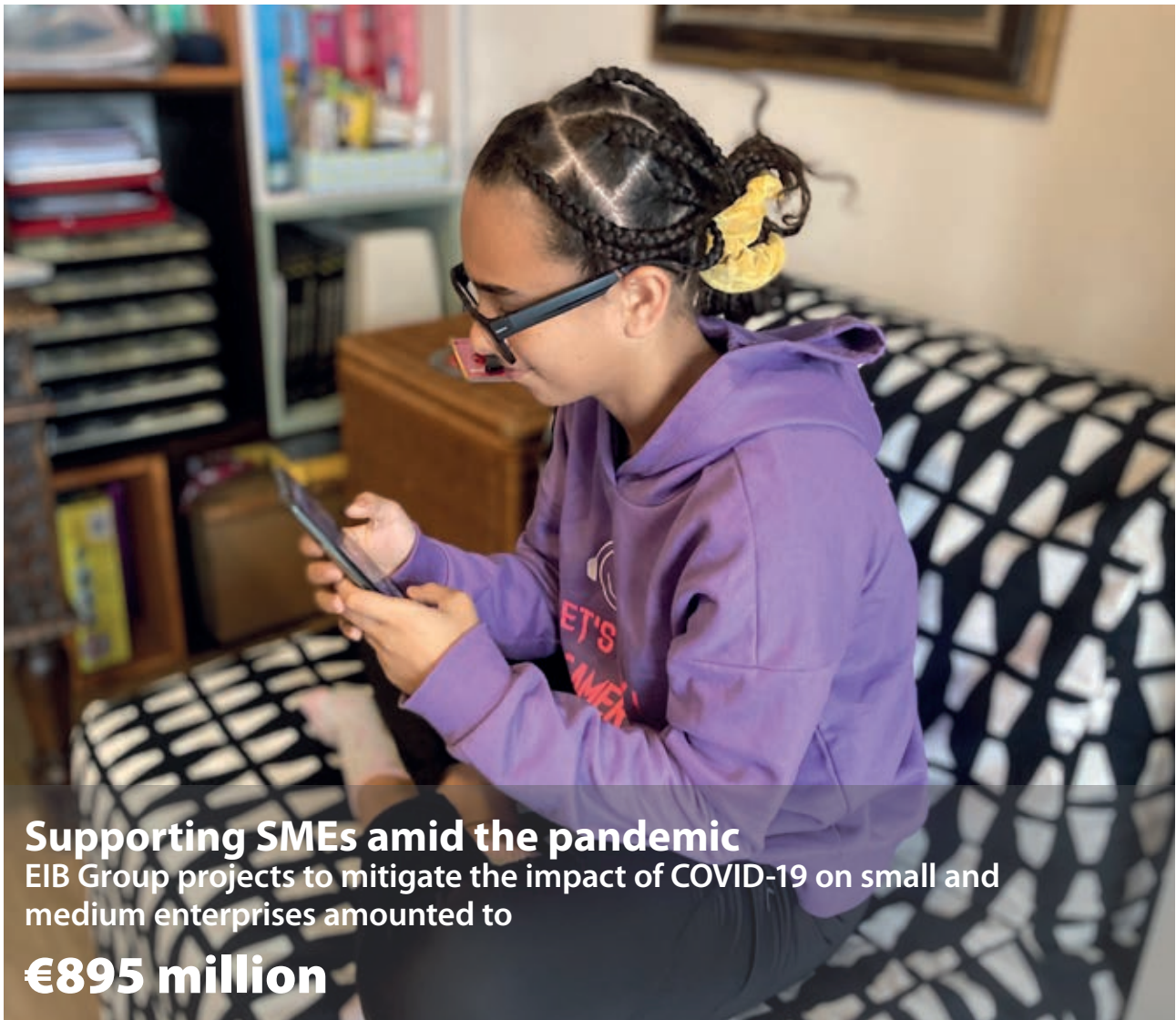
- EIB Group provides total financing of €1.6 billion in Austria in 2021
- Small and medium-sized enterprises among the main beneficiaries of EIB financing
- Strong commitment to climate action and the environment through infrastructure financing



The EIB Group, consisting of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Investment Fund (EIF), provided total financing of €1.6 billion in Austria in 2021. This was slightly lower than the previous year (€1.8 billion in 2020), but still in line with the average of €1.6 billion for 2018-2020. The main driver was the high demand for liquidity amid the coronavirus pandemic, in particular to mitigate the risks for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Other key areas of financing in 2021 were research, development and innovation to boost competitiveness, and climate action and the environment. Altogether, the EIB and EIF provided nearly €700 million in these areas.





**Supporting SMEs amid the pandemic**  
EIB Group projects to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on small and medium enterprises amounted to  
**€895 million**

## Protecting small business from the effects of COVID-19

### EIB Group works with banks to secure SME financing during the crisis

#### European Guarantee Fund also covers some of these activities in Austria

The economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic continued to be felt in 2021, with disrupted supply chains, lockdowns in the service sector, and limited bank lending to small and medium firms. To help counter this, the EIB Group provided partially secured credit lines for banks' SME portfolios to enable them to continue providing favourable financing.

The European Guarantee Fund (EGF) also proved to be effective: with guarantees from 22 EU Member States worth €23.2 billion, a total of €174.4 billion was mobilised for small and medium businesses in Europe by the end of 2021. In Austria, the funds helped innovative research-intensive companies to weather the crisis. For instance, the audio specialist USound was able to continue its research projects and the market rollout for its silicon mini speakers as planned. The online travel agency Tourradar also received the funds it needed to further optimise its booking platform.

# Investment in trams

## EIB establishes itself as EU climate bank in Austria

### Investments in public transport and energy-efficient affordable housing

Modern infrastructure is one of the EIB's strategic priorities, in particular public transport. The EIB has strengthened its long-standing partnership with the City of Graz by supporting the purchase of new trams and electric buses, as well as cycling and walking initiatives. Alongside better public transport services, the cooperation is helping to protect the environment and mitigate climate change due to reduced energy consumption and air pollution.

The commitment to affordable rental housing is providing a better quality of life for residents of several Austrian towns, with the EIB supporting the construction and energy renovation of homes. Since 2018, various loans totalling €800 million have been signed with the municipal housing company Wiener Wohnen and four Austrian banks.

The EIB's activities in Austria are therefore in line with its central mission of leading the global fight against climate change. As the EU climate bank, the EIB has set three overarching targets. First, to increase the share of funds for climate action and environmental sustainability to more than 50% of annual financing by 2025. Second, to catalyse €1 trillion in green investments inside and outside the European Union over the critical decade ahead. Third, to continue aligning all new financing with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, as it has done since the end of 2020. Many investments are therefore now off limits for the EIB Group, which steers clear of projects involving traditional fossil fuels, such as the construction of new conventional power plants, CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive agriculture or the expansion of airports.



**Modern infrastructure for cities and regions**

Last year, EIB Group investments in this area amounted to

**€443 million**

## Overall EIB Group results in 2021

### Projects

In 2021, the EIB Group approved projects totalling

**€95 billion**

### European Guarantee Fund

With €23.2 billion in 22 Member States, the EGF mobilised

**€174.4 billion**

### Green financing

Last year, green projects made up

**43%**

of all EIB projects

### COVID-19 support

In 2021, the EIB Group provided COVID-19 support worth

**€33.3 billion**

### SMEs

Small and medium-sized enterprises received

**€45 billion**

More than

**4.5 million jobs**

in small businesses were secured

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