

**“A developed country is not a place where the poor have cars.
It’s where the rich use public transport.”**

Gustavo Petro, mayor of Bogotá

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

Good transport brings people closer together and plays an important role in society, showing that social and gender equality matters. It is used every day by students and employees as an affordable, easy means of reaching their places of work or study.

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

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

On the downside, transport is the only economic sector today where greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to rise. It is the largest contributor to pollution in our continent, [accounting for around 28% of total emissions in the European Union and 37% across the globe](#).

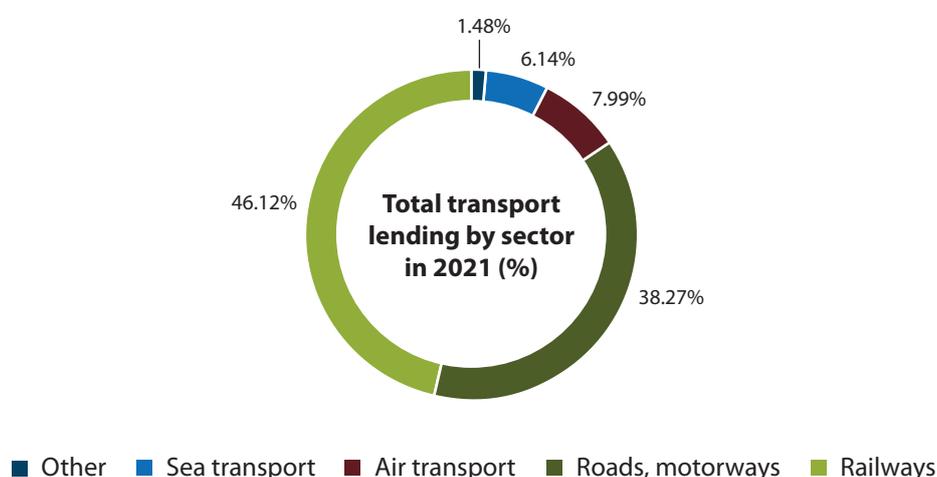
With the European Green Deal’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, EU governments and businesses are working hard to find and deliver innovative solutions to make mobility more sustainable and greener.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Mobility has been financed by the EIB since 1958, and supporting the development of transport networks across all of Europe has helped the EU economy thrive and our societies connect. Today, the EIB Group is doing all that it can to make transport greener, safer and accessible to everyone.

The European Investment Bank is historically one of the biggest transport lenders. In 2021, it provided around **€11 billion** for greener 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 46% of total transport lending went to railway projects, and around 38% to upgrading roads and motorways.



In 2021, **346 million passenger** trips were made on EIB-financed public transport, and more needs to be done to adapt mobility to meet future climate ambitions.

Last year, the Bank organised a public consultation to review its Transport Lending Policy and align it with the [Climate Bank Roadmap](#). The policy focuses on the development of electric mobility, equal access, the hydrogen-based economy and the use of alternative fuels for road vehicles. The policy is also in line with the European Commission's [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#) and has been adjusted to the EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy.

The European Union is expected to be one of the leaders in the fight against climate change and in achieving the Paris Agreement's targets. Implementing climate action initiatives is key to reaching these goals.

Greener alternatives for vehicles and fuels are needed, and joint European initiatives such as InvestEU, Future Mobility and InnovFin are enabling entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and compete on the market stage.

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

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



Bulgaria: EIB and Sofia Municipality sign €60 million loan for sustainable mobility projects.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

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

Hydrogen-based logistics in the Occitanie region, France

The Bank supported Occitanie's Green Hydrogen Plan with a €40 million loan for Corridor H2, a unique project for rolling out hydrogen-based solutions.

The plan covers the installation of hydrogen distribution stations running from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, as well as on secondary motorway routes in the French region.

Goods transport will be greener, based on fully electric, hydrogen-powered solutions that can be installed on new or existing trailers, supporting cold chain logistics. Additionally, infrastructure for hydrogen-powered electric trucks will be set up when vehicles become available on the European market. The project will prevent the use of 2.6 million tonnes of diesel every year.

Motorway digital infrastructure in Morocco

The European Investment Bank has signed an €85 million finance contract with Société Nationale des Autoroutes du Maroc to improve the flow of traffic and the safety of road users through electronic tolls, digital payments and real-time traffic monitoring. The project will also help reduce the pollution generated by vehicles when they stop at toll booths, and provide drivers with a safer motorway system.

Greener infrastructure for maritime transport in Genoa, Italy

The Bank is promoting climate action in the maritime sector by providing €300 million to finance the Port of Genoa's expansion and construct a breakwater to reduce the risks of climate change-induced flooding, allowing modern cargo ships to access the port. The rail network will be upgraded to facilitate freight transit and reduce road traffic in the area. The project includes

electrical connections to allow berthed ships to receive power from the ground, cutting emissions from current fuel usage.

A new metro for sustainable commuting in Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt

The EIB has signed the second tranche of a €1.1 billion loan to finance metro and tram projects in Alexandria and Cairo, the two biggest Egyptian cities. The project includes the extension of the existing Cairo Metro line 3, partly financed by the Bank, and 23 kilometres of metro line 2 to improve the city's public transport links. The lines are air-conditioned and equipped with automated driving and help reduce road traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. In Alexandria, the plan is intended to improve current urban mobility, converting 22 kilometres of railway into a metro system. The metro network in Cairo currently carries several million people every day, providing them with a sustainable solution to battle pollution, traffic jams and delays.

Self-driving technology in Finland

The EIB financed the firm Sensible 4 with €8 million to boost self-driving technology, which will help reduce traffic accidents, high-emissions vehicles and carbon dioxide, providing a future solution to the shortage of public transport and logistics drivers in Europe.

Green buses across France

The Bank has contributed €100 million to an investment platform to finance the energy transition of bus fleets in France and reduce their impact on the climate. The platform was put in place as a financial instrument intended to quickly provide local and urban mobility authorities with electric bus fleets.



Sustainable mobility projects in Bulgaria

The European Investment Bank has supported the municipality of Sofia with a €60 million framework loan to promote sustainable urban mobility and develop a green transport system that includes buses and electric vehicle charging stations. The project includes the rehabilitation of existing roads and tramways, providing upgrades in the infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. The plan will help reduce CO₂ emissions and improve the everyday life of Sofia's residents.

High-speed trains in the Netherlands

The Bank provided €450 million to support the acquisition of 79 InterCity Next Generation trains in the Netherlands to operate both on the traditional and the high-speed rail network. The project will help promote the efficiency of public transport.



Italy: EIB provides support to FCA for research and development and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles.



Boosting transport solutions for women in Spain.



RESOURCES

BLOGS

- **The road goes digital**
- **Ancient monuments, modern metro**
- **Transport solutions for women**
- **Development solutions: All aboard**

PUBLICATIONS

- **The EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025**
- **Public consultation document, revision of the EIB's Transport Lending Policy**

VIDEOS

- **The EIB invests in mobility**
- **Around the world on a metro with the EIB (in Quito, Athens, Rabat, Lucknow and Rotterdam)**
- **Metz: priority to public transport**
- **Reshaping Lisbon**
- **Bangalore Metro: ♀ The way ahead for women**
- **Lucknow Metro: the future is now**



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This overview, with links to stories, brochures and videos, is available at:
<http://www.eib.org/sustainable-transport-overview>