

A watertight solution for a more secure future

By 2025, 800 million people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and the stress of diminishing water resources will be felt by two-thirds of the world's population. This places water security high on the political agenda. The EIB is helping countries within and outside Europe to adapt their water-management strategies to climate change and essential cuts in energy consumption.



Helping Lisbon meet the ever-growing demand for water

Since 1997 we have provided over EUR 2bn in loan support as well as technical assistance to Águas de Portugal for a number of projects that improve and expand water supply and wastewater collection and treatment throughout Portugal. The Beirolas wastewater treatment plant in Lisbon exemplifies improvements in local water resources, including coastal areas, rivers and groundwater, helping protect drinking water supply sources and contributing to sustainable development in the region. Most recently, we have been supporting the concerted effort by the publicly owned utility Empresa Portuguesa das Águas Livres (EPAL) to improve the water distribution network through increased energy and water efficiency. A loan of EUR 72m has been approved to help EPAL meet the soaring demand for water in the growing Greater Lisbon area.

Water security in the Veneto region

In 2009, the EIB provided a EUR 88m loan to the public concession company Veneto Acque Spa to diversify water sources and enhance security of supply in Italy's Veneto region. Over the past years, Northern Italy has experienced decreased snow cover, fewer rainy days with less intense showers and glacier retreat. These climate events are altering the flow of the main rivers, which is hampering water availability in the region. As a result of the project, poor quality surface water from the Adige and Po rivers has been complemented with pre-alpine groundwater, meaning that the 600 000 inhabitants of Central Veneto, plus its 400 000 seasonal residents enjoy a consistently higher quality of water. When fully operational in 2016, the plant will distribute some 30 million cubic metres annually.



Making a splash:

The largest lender to the
water sector worldwide

In 2013:

4.7 bn
EUR

for 35 projects

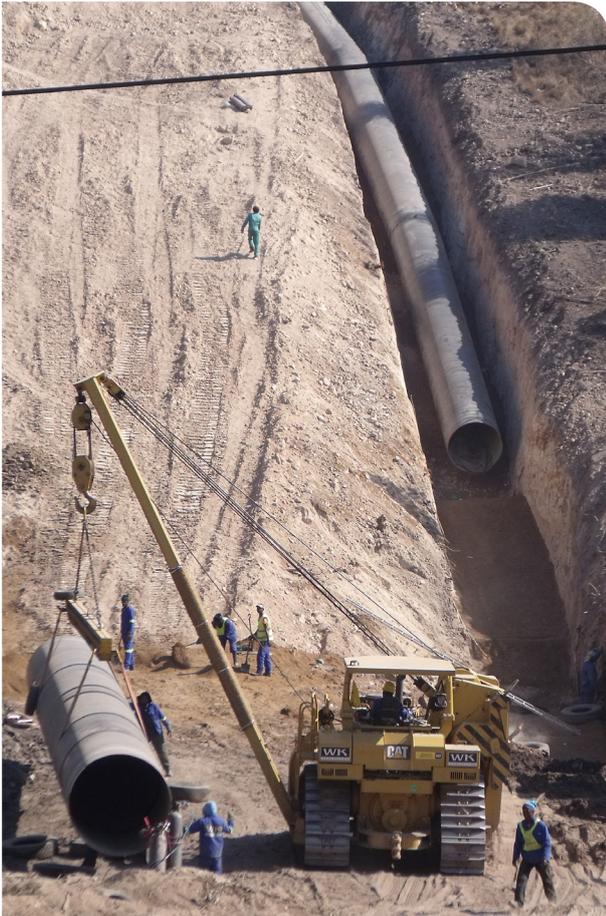
Since the start
of EIB operations:

58 bn
EUR

for 1300 projects

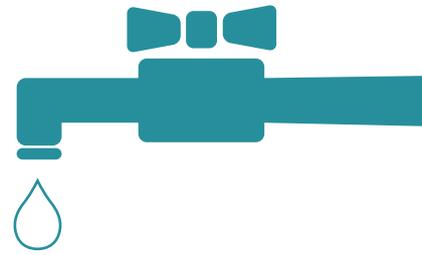


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Award-winning water and sanitation investments in eThekweni

A EUR 50m EIB loan has financed a considerable share of the 2009-2014 eThekweni (formerly Durban) Water and Sanitation investment programme in the South African metropolitan area, which is home to over 4 million inhabitants. The project, part of a wider effort to strengthen water security in the urban area, supported the extension of access to basic services for a vast and diverse population, while improving the efficiency of the water supply system via innovative technologies. The promoter was awarded this year's Stockholm Industry Water Award (SIWA) in recognition of its achievements, which include the provision of first-time access to piped drinking water for 1.3 million people and to sanitation services for 700 000 people.



Trickle-down effect: water projects improving lives

Outside the EU in 2013 = 9 water operations for **424m** EUR

sanitation for **199 700** households

water supply for **656 000** households

Pouring our technical know-how into the water sector:

Finance complemented by expert technical assistance to boost project capacity

35 EIB water specialists



Taking a holistic approach to the life-sustaining element

Active across the entire water value chain



- water supply
- hydropower
- flood protection
- sanitation and wastewater management



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