



European
Investment Bank | Group

EIB GROUP ACTIVITY IN CROATIA

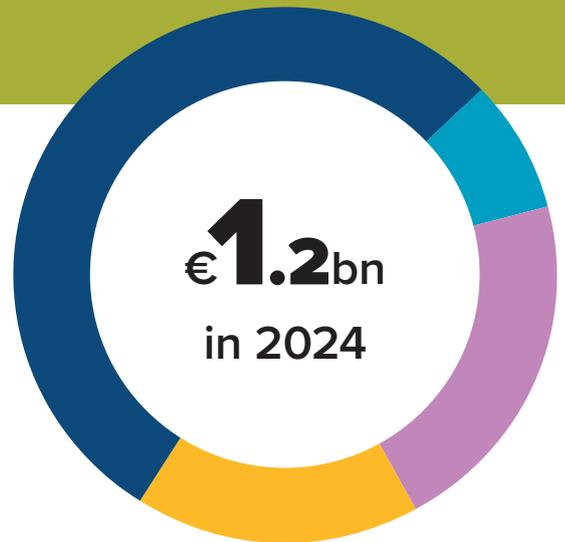


€674m
Sustainable cities
and regions

€264m
SMEs and mid-caps

€93m
Innovation and
digital technologies

€209m
Sustainable energy and
natural resources



- A record **€1.2 billion** in new financing was signed to support key sectors in the Croatian economy.
- Investments were made to modernise transport, build sustainable cities, boost renewable energy, and support green projects undertaken by small businesses.
- The EIB Group allocated **€721 million** to climate investments, driving Croatia's green transition.

In 2024, the European Investment Bank Group, comprising the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF), invested a record €1.2 billion in Croatia, underlining its role as a key partner in the country's economic, social and environmental growth. The EIB signed a €400 million contract – out of the €900 million approved under the facility – to modernise Croatia's railway infrastructure and rolling stock, making it the EIB's largest ever lending operation for Croatia. This initiative will encourage people to take trains instead of driving, and will cut emissions, improve connectivity and make travel easier for 22 million passengers every year. A €30 million loan was granted to national energy company Hrvatska elektroprivreda d.d. to support the construction and operation of the Korlat solar plant. The EIB Group also stepped up its advisory and financial support for Croatian cities, including Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek and Varaždin, with projects ranging from affordable housing and sustainable transport, to energy and education.

Working with the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR), the EIB and the EIF backed small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps with green investments. Groundbreaking initiatives like the Vesna Deep Tech Venture Fund helped boost innovation and competitiveness. These efforts are shaping a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for Croatia.

TRANSFORMING CROATIA'S CITIES

Support for sustainable cities and social infrastructure

In 2024, the EIB stepped up its support for Croatia's major cities through tailored financing and advisory services. Investments focused on enhancing energy efficiency, urban mobility and social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and nurseries. The Bank's municipal financing packages enable cities to maximise European Union grants, accelerating their development. Key initiatives included a €207 million loan to the city of Zagreb as the initial tranche of a €395 million financing operation to expand renewable energy and support social housing and public transport. This covered the project to convert a former steam mill (Paromlin) into a public library and cultural centre, which was one of the first projects to be approved. In addition, the EIB provided advisory services to Zagreb and ZET, the city's public transport company, to reduce emissions in the city's transport system. The EIB allocated €49 million to projects in Split, including one to restore Žnjan beach. Finally, to address the growing need for affordable homes, the EIB is advising Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek and Varaždin on building more social housing, managing rising costs and encouraging inclusive urban growth.



EIB Group committed
€1.2 billion
in new financing for Croatia in 2024





SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND PROMOTING INNOVATION IN CROATIA

Supporting digitalisation and sustainability

The EIB Group is driving Croatia's green transition and digital innovation through strategic partnerships and investments. In collaboration with HBOR, the EIB is providing financing for SMEs and mid-caps to enable them to undertake green projects across the country. A €200 million loan to HBOR – out of €500 million that has been approved – will help businesses tackle climate change and boost sustainable investments. Through the "Green Gateway" facility, the EIB is advising HBOR on green funding for smaller projects and enterprises, and also providing it with technical assistance to improve its processes for identifying and evaluating projects.

A €169 million support package for Privredna Banka Zagreb and a €160 million package for Erste Croatia, from the EIB and the EIF respectively, are helping introduce innovative tools like corporate bonds to boost climate action, innovation and competitiveness in SMEs and mid-caps. The EIF is further supporting Croatia's innovation ecosystem through the Croatian Venture Capital Initiative and the Croatian Growth Investment Programme, helping hundreds of startups and fast-growing companies. Recent investments, such as €40 million for the Vesna Deep Tech Venture Fund, are accelerating innovation in Croatia and Slovenia. Since 1996, the EIF has allocated €1.6 billion for around 6 000 enterprises, supporting 81 000 jobs across Croatia.

In 2024, the EIB also provided advisory services to the Ministry of Health regarding the expansion of the Dubrava University Hospital in Zagreb, and also to Croatian Motorways to help make the country's motorways greener. Under the EU Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) programme, the EIB is also helping to prepare and implement projects across several sectors, including transport, water and waste management.

The EIF allocated
€303.2 million
to projects in Croatia in 2024



Overall EIB Group achievements in 2024

Total EIB Group financing

€88.8 billion

including

€68.2 billion

in EIB funding within the EU

€8.4 billion

in EIB funding beyond the EU

€14.4 billion in EIF funding

(total includes €2.2 billion in joint
EIB/EIF operations)

Climate action

57% of total EIB Group financing or

€50.7 billion

Social cohesion

Over 48% of total EIB Group financing
within the EU

or **€38.3 billion**

Total investment supported

€350 billion

Innovation,
digitalisation and human capital

€19.8 billion

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